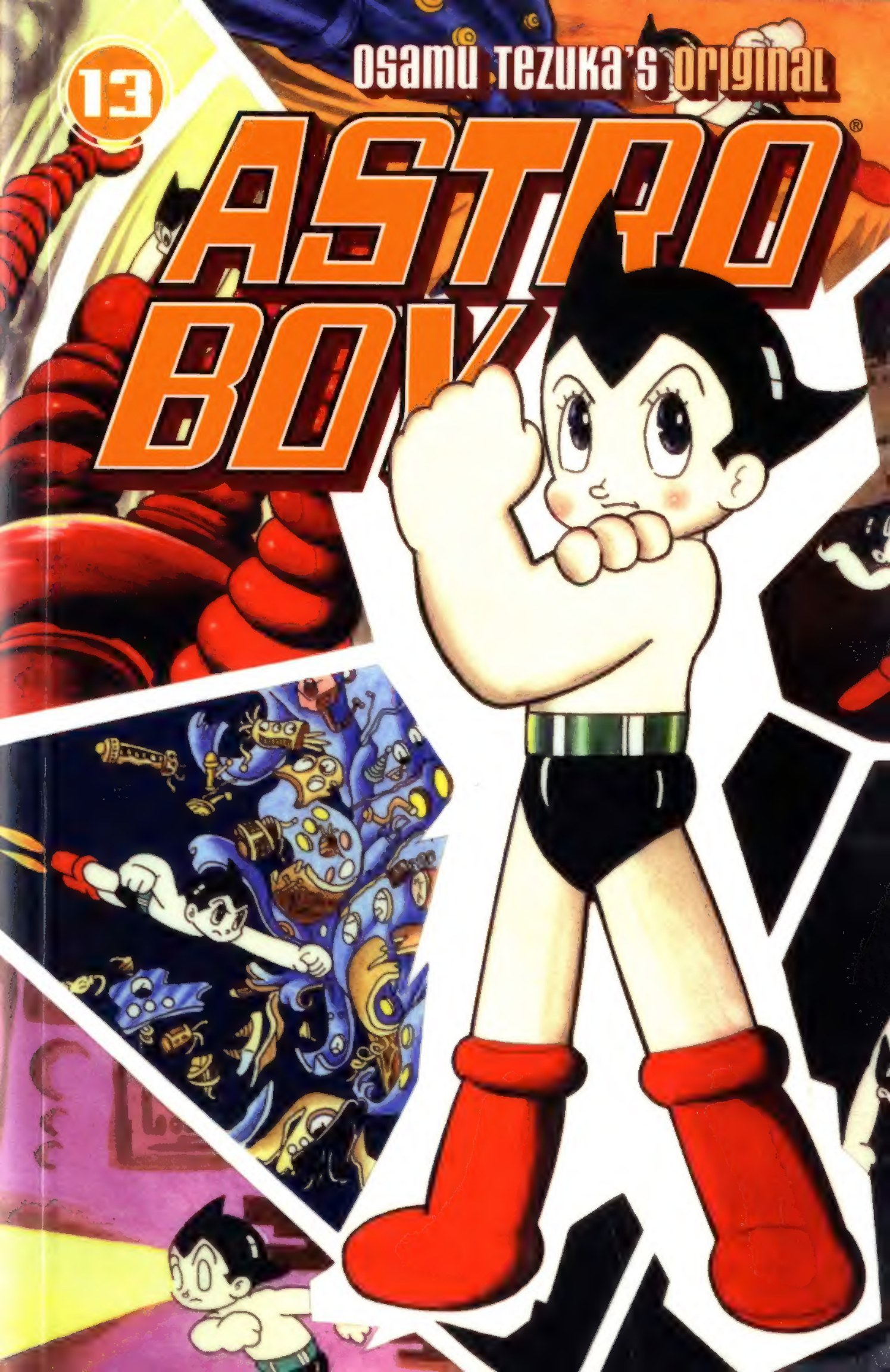
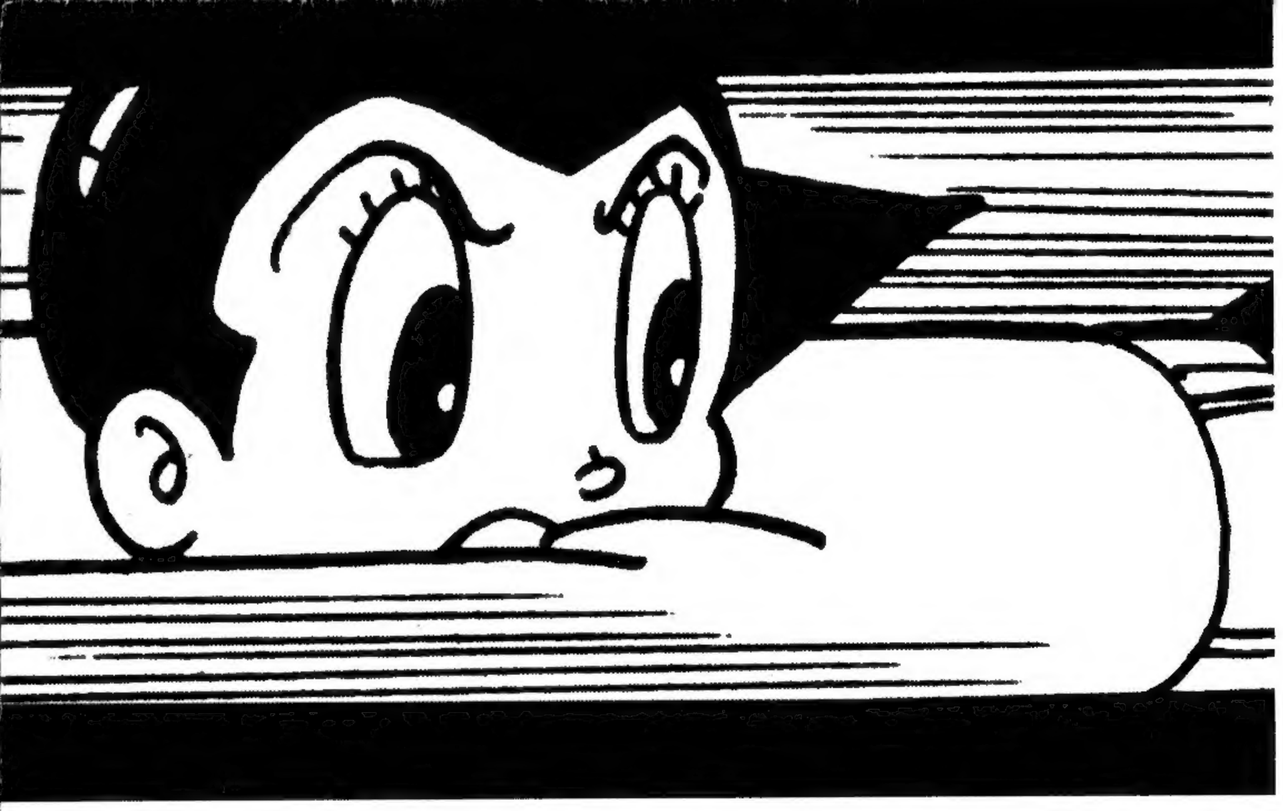

13
Osamu Tezuka's Original
ASTRO BOY®



ASTRO BOY®

13

by

Osamu Tezuka

Table of Contents

A NOTE TO READERS.....5

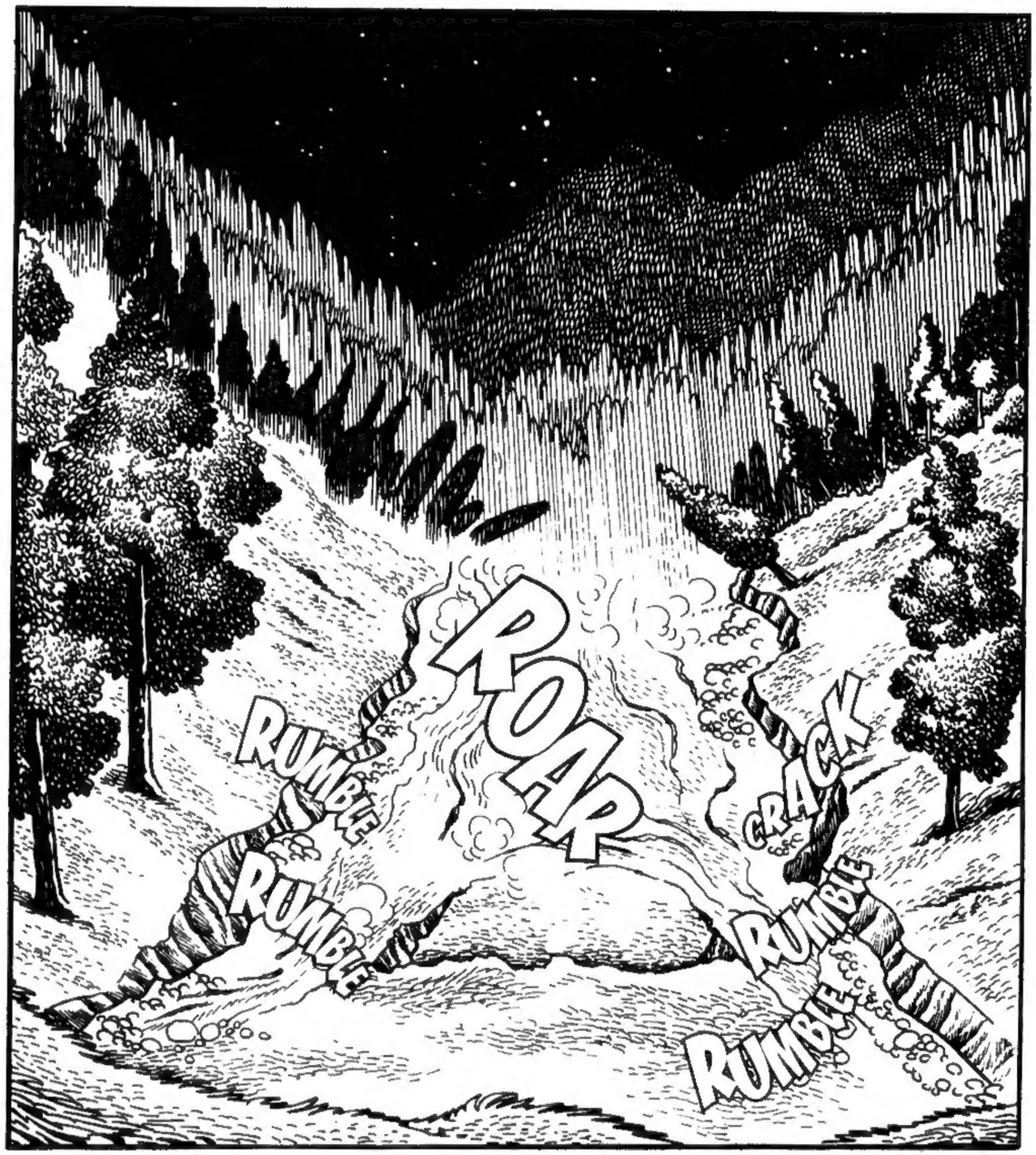
ZOLOMON'S JEWELS.....7

SHOOTOUT IN THE ALPS.....171

THE LYING ROBOT.....205

ZOLOMON'S JEWELS

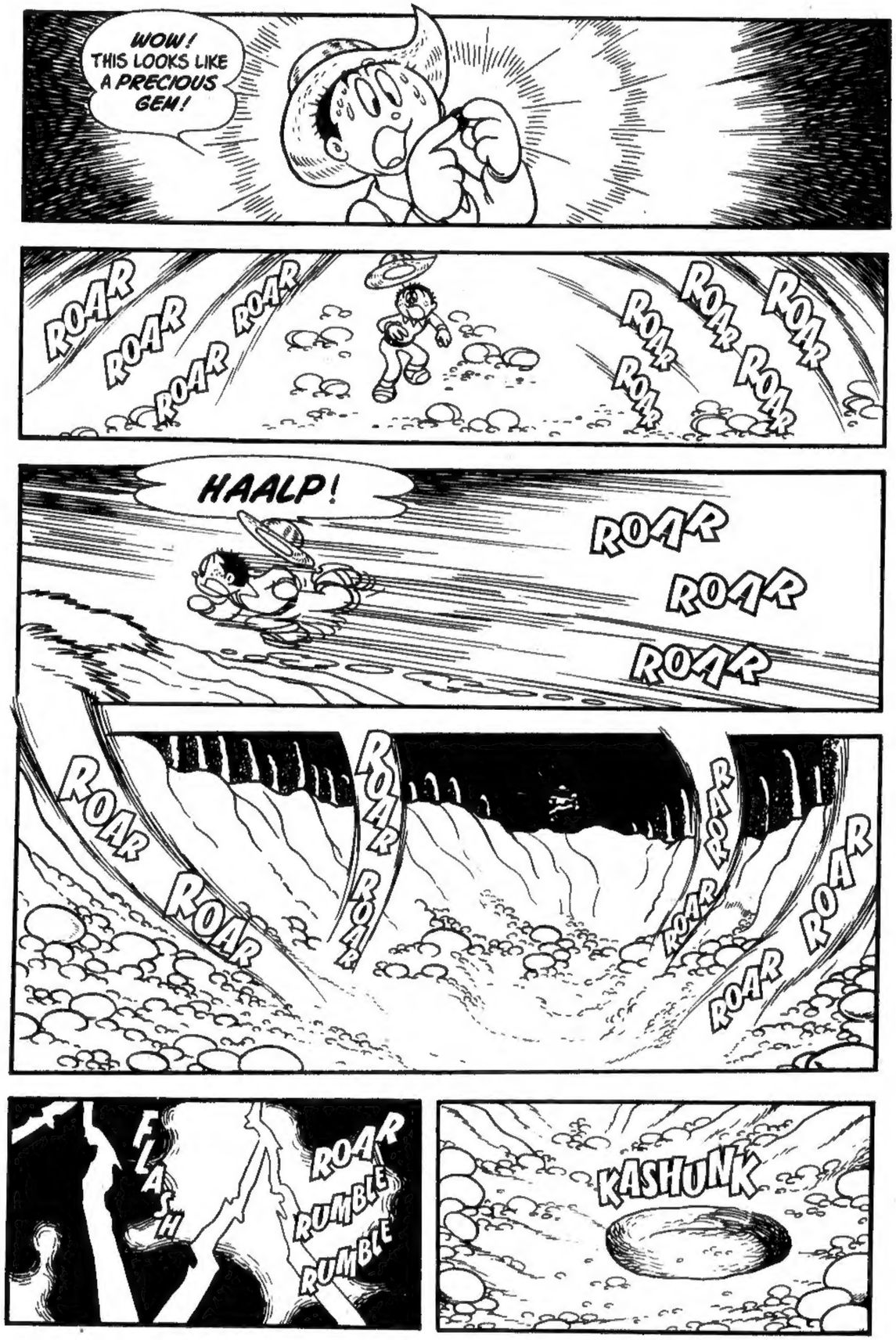
First serialized from May to December 1967
in *Shonen* magazine.


ROAR
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
CRACK
RUMBLE
RUMBLE

WOW! I THOUGHT I HEARD A RUMBLING SOUND...
...'N SURE ENOUGH, THE GROUND'S CAVING IN!

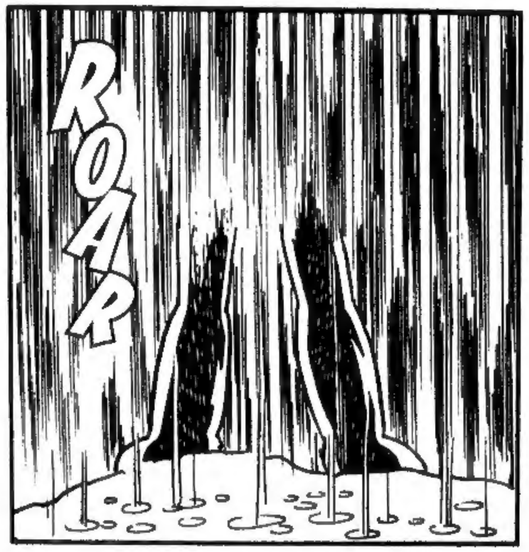
RUMBLE
MUST BE SOME KINDA LAND-SLIDE!!

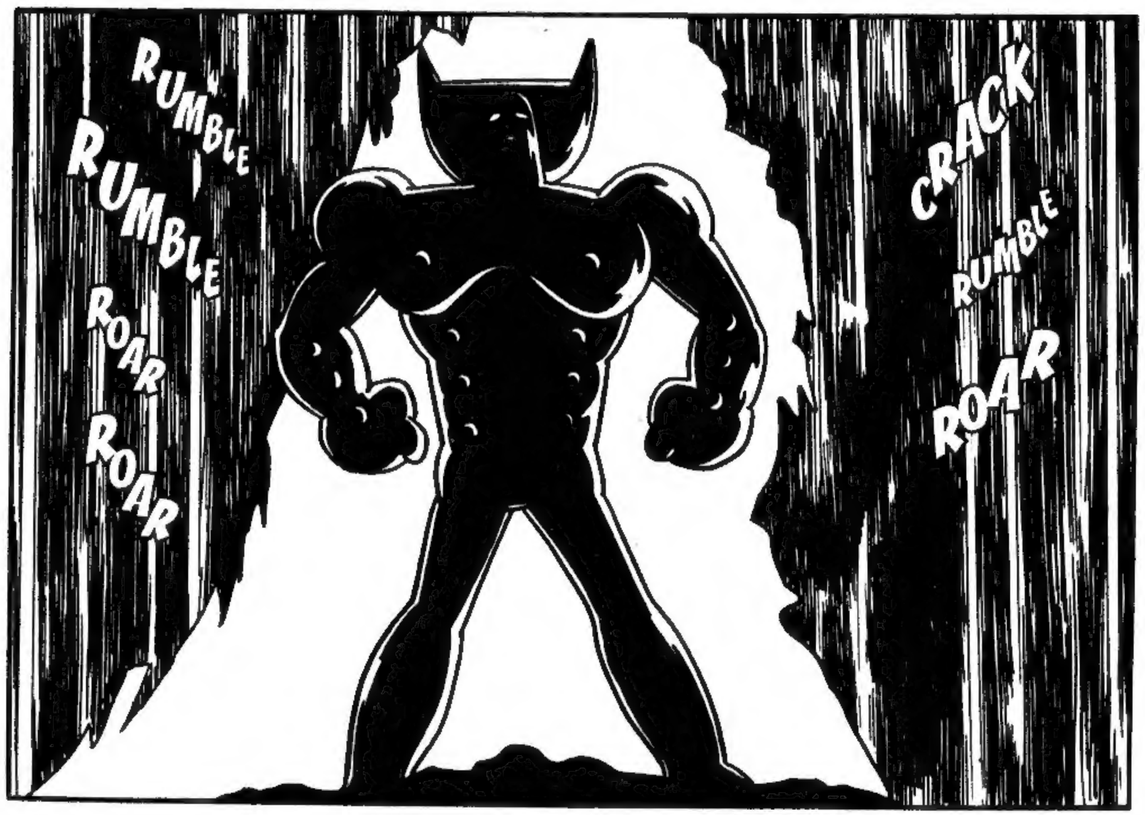
AND THE COLLAPSED PART...
...IS IN THE SHAPE OF A HUMAN!
THIS PLACE IS HAUNTED!!
?
?


WOW! THIS LOOKS LIKE A PRECIOUS GEM!
ROAR
HAALP!
FLASH
RUMBLE
KASHUNK

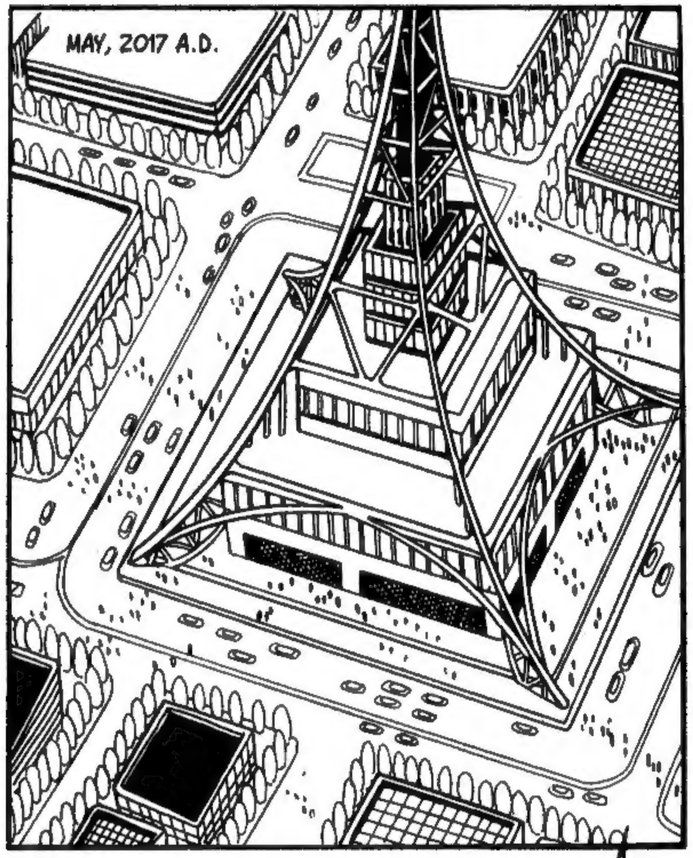
KASHUNK
KASHUNK

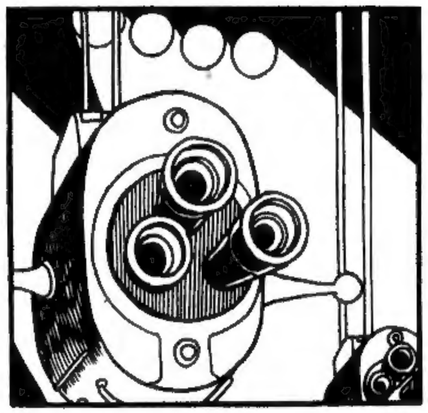
KASHUNK
KASHUNK


ROAR

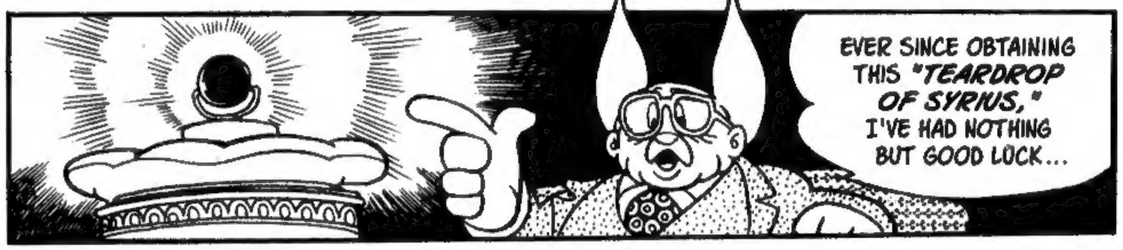

RUMBLE
RUMBLE
ROAR
ROAR
CRACK
RUMBLE
ROAR

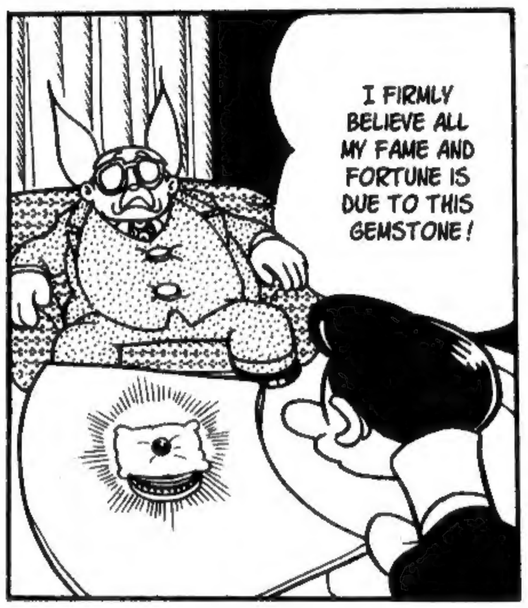
BARAAADA!

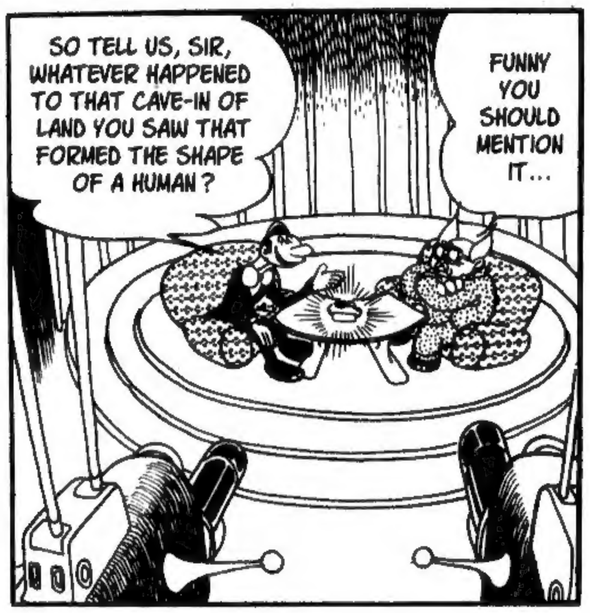

MAY, 2017 A.D.

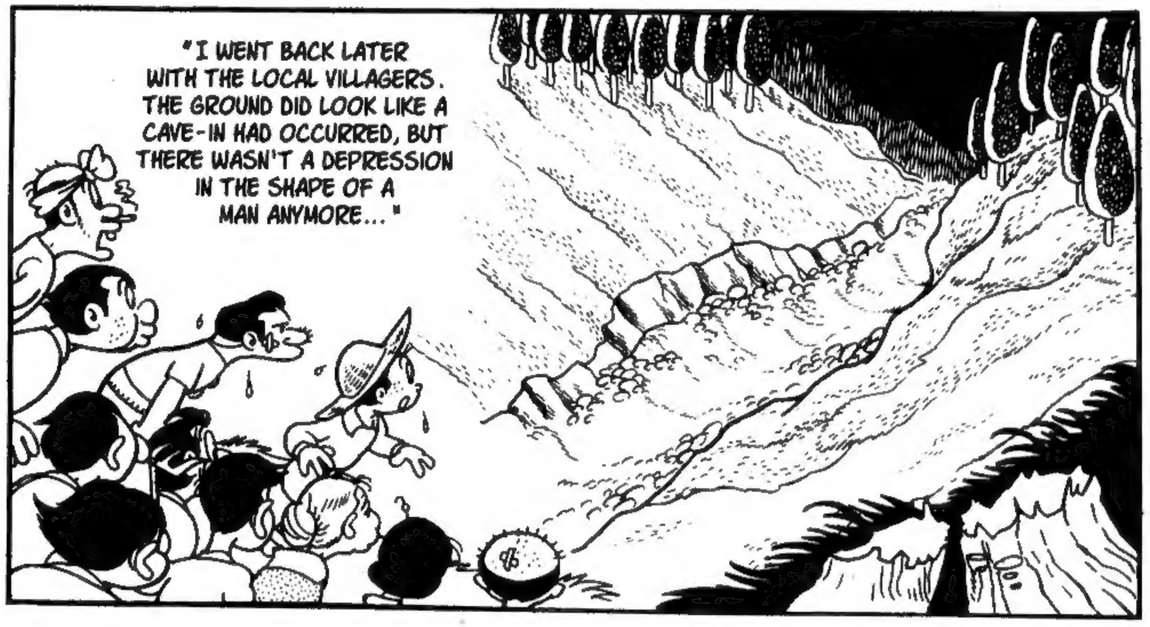


IT'S BEEN FIFTY YEARS...


EVER SINCE OBTAINING THIS "TEARDROP OF SYRNUS," I'VE HAD NOTHING BUT GOOD LUCK...


I FIRMLY BELIEVE ALL MY FAME AND FORTUNE IS DUE TO THIS GEMSTONE!


SO TELL US, SIR, WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THAT CAVE-IN OF LAND YOU SAW THAT FORMED THE SHAPE OF A HUMAN?
FUNNY YOU SHOULD MENTION IT...


"I WENT BACK LATER WITH THE LOCAL VILLAGERS. THE GROUND DID LOOK LIKE A CAVE-IN HAD OCCURRED, BUT THERE WASN'T A DEPRESSION IN THE SHAPE OF A MAN ANYMORE..."

"IT'S NOW A LITTLE LAKE, FILLED WITH WATER..."

SO WHAT'S THE LUCKIEST THING THAT'S HAPPENED TO YOU THAT YOU ATTRIBUTE TO THE GEMSTONE?
WELL, THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT...

... IT'S THE BIRTH OF MY PRIDE AND JOY... MY OWN SON!

NIKARU HERE'S EVEN MORE PRECIOUS THAN THIS GEM! HA HA HA!

IN REHEARSAL

ON AIR

WOW... SURE ARE LOTS OF *COPS*...

WONDER WHAT'S GOING ON?

YEAH... WONDER WHAT'S IN THE BOX?

WHISPER WHISPER WHISPER

GOSH... DID YOU SEE HIS EYES? THAT'S NO ORDINARY KID!

I'LL SAY! HE GIVES ME THE CREEPS!

YOU SEE THE WAY HE LOOKED AT *ME*?!

ANY OTHER PLACE, AND I'D *WHUP* HIM ONE!

WHAT'S THIS I HEARD, YOUNG MAN?

ER... *NOTHING*, OFFICER, SIR...

WHAT'S GOING ON, INSPEC-TOR?

WE'RE GUARDING A WORLD-CLASS GEM, BOYS...

LOTS OF BAD PEOPLE OUT THERE'D LOVE TO GET THEIR HANDS ON THIS... EVEN A FEW ROBOTS...

ROBOTS ARE AFTER IT, TOO?

THAT'S RIGHT, ASTRO...

DON'T FORGET, IT'S NOT JUST HUMANS WHO DO BAD THINGS... THERE'RE SOME BAD ROBOTS OUT THERE, TOO!

B-BUT ...

YEAH... WHAT KINDA ROBOT'D TRY'N STEAL A JEWEL?

ZOLO-MON, THAT'S WHO...

ZOLO-MON?

SMASH
I'M LOOKING FOR ASTRO BOY...

WHERE'S ASTRO BOY?
HEY!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING HERE?!
CRACK
YIKES!
WHAT THE HECK'S GOING ON OUT THERE?
I KNEW THERE WAS A REASON I DIDN'T LIKE THAT GUY...
ASTRO!! COME BACK!

YOU'RE THE KID WHO WAS AT THE TV STATION!

IT'S *HIKARU KANE-YAMA*, RIGHT?!

WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH ME?!

I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU A FAVOR...

A FAVOR? ME?

I NEED YOU TO HELP PROTECT THE "TEARDROP OF SIRIUS"...

MAYBE YOU HAVEN'T HEARD, BUT IT'S A FAMOUS GEM, AND THERE'S A ROBOT AFTER IT NAMED *ZOLOMON!*

BUT THERE ARE ALREADY PEOPLE GUARDING IT, RIGHT?

YEAH, BUT THEY'RE *HUMANS!*

THEY'RE NO MATCH FOR A *ROBOT*, ESPECIALLY *ZOLO-MON!!*

HE'S A SCARY CHARACTER! THE SCARIEST OF ALL ROBOTS!

THAT'S WHY I'M TRYING TO ENLIST FOUR ROBOTS -- TO ACT AS SECURITY FOR THE GEM!

FOUR? YOU NEED THREE OTHERS BESIDES ME?

RIGHT. MY DAD ORDERED ME TO FIND 'EM!

SO WHO'RE THE OTHER THREE?!

YOU DON'T NEED TO KNOW THAT NOW!

JUST TELL ME, YOU GONNA TAKE THE JOB...OR NOT...?

HEY, YOU'VE GOT A LOT OF *NERVE* TO TALK LIKE THAT...

WELL, WELL... EXCUSE *ME!!*

I ONLY ASKED YOU BECAUSE I *LIKE* AND *RESPECT* YOU...

YOU LIAR!

I CAN TELL WHEN PEOPLE LIE, HIKARU!

I CAN TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN GOOD AND BAD PEOPLE!!

...AND FROM THE LOOK IN YOUR EYES, I CAN'T TRUST YOU! SO THE ANSWER'S *NO!*

GET OFF MY *SCHOOL GROUNDS!!*

B-BUT I CAME ALL THE WAY HERE TO ASK FOR YOUR HELP...

I SAID, *NO!* NOW GET OUT OF HERE!

WHY... YOU...!!

FWAP

SMACK

KASHUNK

HEY! KNOCK IT OFF!

YOU'RE TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE FACT THAT ROBOTS AREN'T S'POSED TO HURT HUMANS!

WELL, WELL... IF MR. *TEACHER* SAYS SO, I GUESS I'LL HAVE TO LEAVE HIM ALONE...

SEE YOU LATER, ASTRO!!

BOY, SURE IS A VIOLENT KID...

HEY!! WAIT!

WHAT'S UP, KID?

HEH HEH HEH HEH...

UM, ER...

I SAID, WHAT'S UP?!!

UM... IF YOU'VE GOT A GANG, WE WANNA JOIN!

IT WAS REALLY *COOL* THE WAY YOU WHUPPED ASTRO!

YEAH! WE WANNA BE COOL LIKE YOU!!

WHADDYA SAY? YOU C'N TEACH US TO BE TOUGH!

THANKS, BUT NO THANKS!

WITH YOUR HELP, EVEN ROBOTS LIKE ASTRO WOULDN'T SCARE US!

DO YOU HATE ROBOTS?

HATE 'EM? NAW, BUT THEY *DO* ACT KINDA STUCK UP SOME-TIMES...

IF YOU GUYS WANNA HANG WITH ME, YOU'VE GOTTA REALLY, REALLY *HATE* 'EM...

UNDER-STAND, PUNKSTER?

B-BUT *WHY?*

WHEN I TOOK THE TEST TO GET INTO A GOOD JUNIOR HIGH...

...I *FLUNKED* 'CUZ A ROBOT BEAT ME BY TEN POINTS AND GOT IN!

ROBOTS WERE MADE TO *HELP* HUMANS!

SO WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH THAT, HEY?!

AFTER THAT I TRIED EVERYTHING TO BECOME BETTER THAN A ROBOT...

I STARTED A SUPER DIFFICULT TRAINING PROGRAM...

I THREW MYSELF INTO BODY-BUILDING, SPORTS, NINJA TRAINING, AND EVEN REGULAR STUDYING!

WOW...

BUT IT WAS *NO USE*...

A HUMAN CAN NEVER BE AS *POWERFUL* AS A ROBOT...

SO I MADE UP MY MIND! I'M GONNA UNDERGO AN OPERATION! TO BECOME A *CYBORG* SOON!

I'LL BE HUMAN WITH A ROBOT BODY!!

THEN NO ROBOT'LL EVER BEAT ME AT ANYTHING!

WHADDYA SAY? WANNA HAVE THE SAME OPERATION?

NO WAY!!!

HEH HEH...

LESSEE... HERE'S THE SECOND ROBOT...

NOVA... 300 THOUSAND HORSEPOWER... SPECIAL POWER'S THE "WHITE HOT RING"...

SCREECH!

WHAT?!!

YOU DON'T NEED FOUR ROBOT GUARDS! I CAN TAKE CARE OF THE WHOLE THING FOR YOU...

MY DAD SAID TO HIRE FOUR, SO THAT'S WHAT I'M DOING...

WELL, SINCE HE'S THE ONE DOING THE HIRING...

...IF HE REALLY WANTS FOUR, I GUESS HE CAN HIRE FOUR...

BUT MAKE NO MISTAKE, KID...

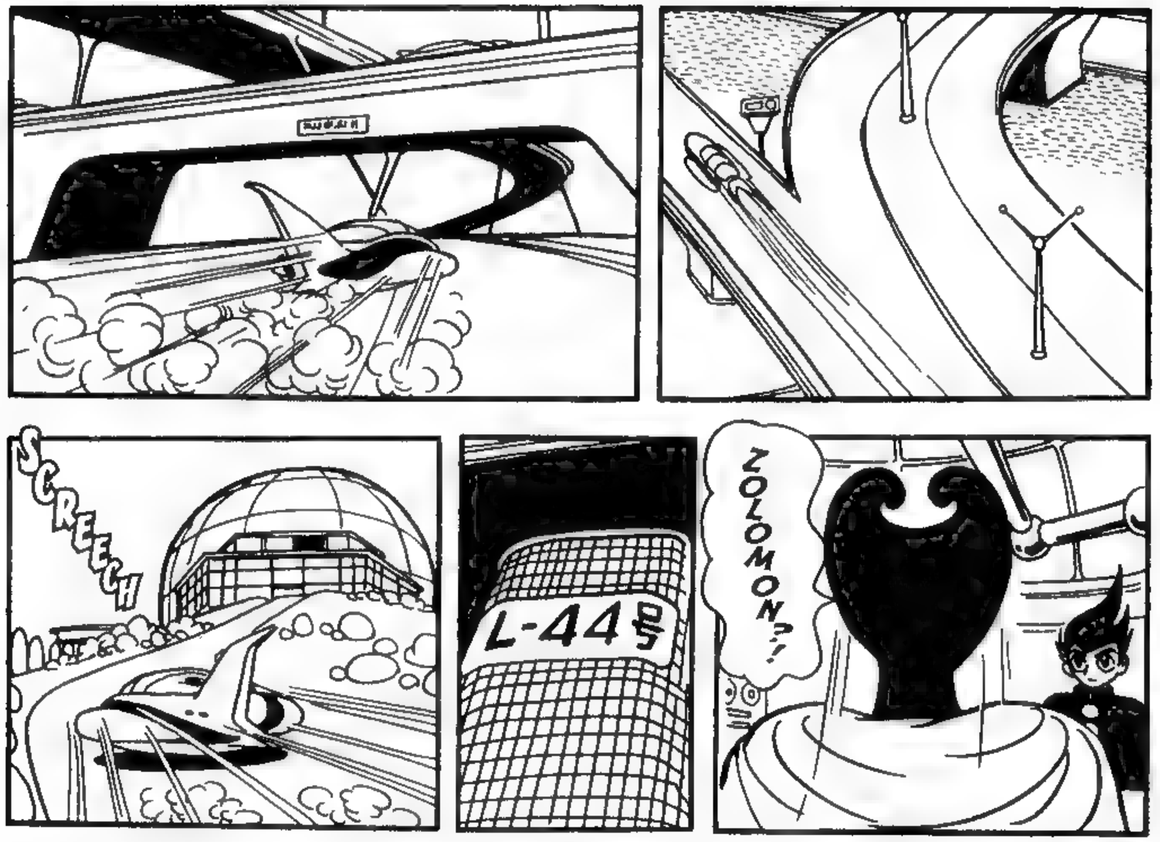
I'M *NOT* DOING THIS FOR THE *MONEY!!*

VOOOOSH

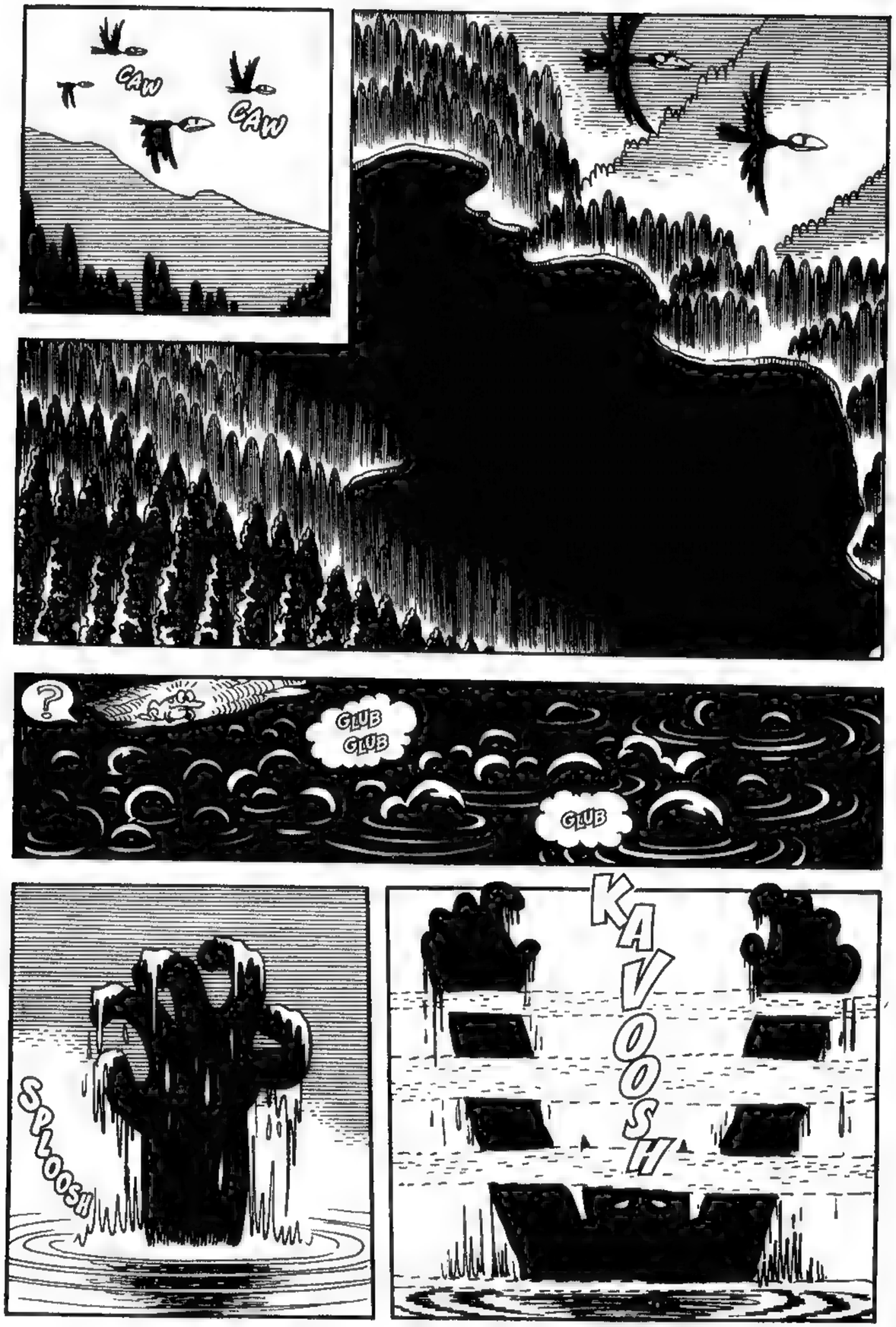
FSSSSSSH

I'M DOING IT 'CAUSE I WANT TO GO UP AGAINST ZOLOMON, *ROBOT-TO-ROBOT!!*

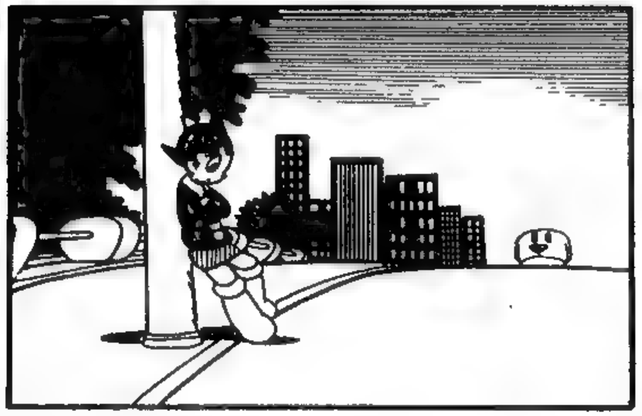
KASHOOMK

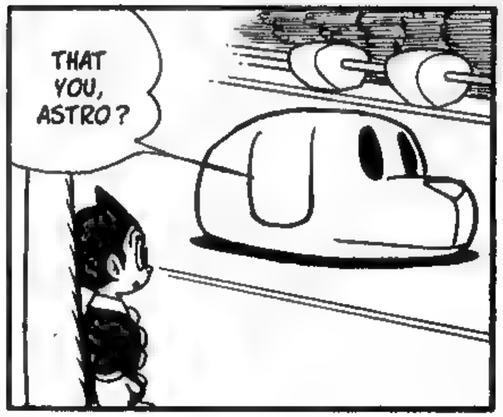

SCREECH
L-44
ZOLOMON?!
WHAT'S THE MATTER? AFRAID?
I'VE HEARD HE'S AWFULLY POWER-FUL...
WE NEED YOUR SUPER POWER, L-44...
... AND MY DAD SAYS HE'S WILLING TO PAY FOR IT!!
ENOUGH FOR ME TO BECOME A HUMAN?
I'VE HEARD THERE'S AN OPERATION THAT CAN CHANGE ROBOTS INTO HUMANS, AND I WANT IT...
Y-YOU WANT TO BECOME A HUMAN? B-BUT WHY?

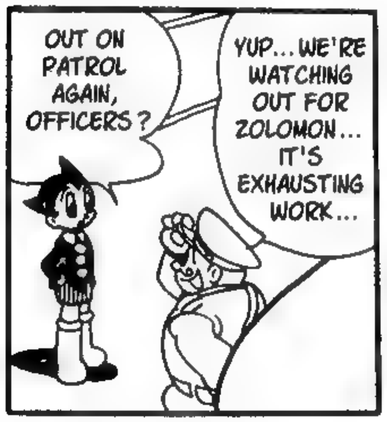
THIS IS WEIRD. I'M A HUMAN WHO WANTS TO BECOME A ROBOT, AND HE'S A ROBOT WHO WANTS TO BECOME HUMAN...
I'M JUST AFRAID THE OPERATION MIGHT NOT WORK ON A REAL ROBOT LIKE ME...
HEY, IT'D PROBABLY WORK, AT LEAST SUPERFICIALLY... I HEAR THEY'VE EVEN GOT ARTIFICIAL CELLS THESE DAYS...
THEN COUNT ME IN, YOUNG MAN...
I'LL DO MY BEST TO PROTECT THE GEM FROM ZOLOMON!
.....
.....
AH, WHY WAS I MADE TO BE A ROBOT...? I'D GIVE ANYTHING TO BE A FLESH AND BLOOD HUMAN...


CAW
CAW
?
GLUB
GLUB
GLUB
SPLOOSH
KAVOOSH

FWISH
KASHUNK
KASHUNK



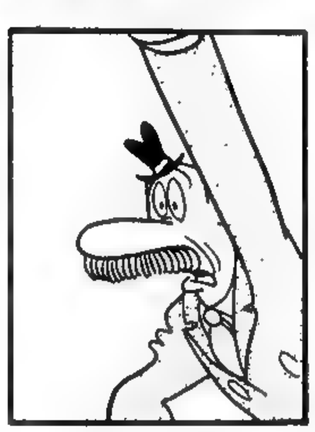

THAT YOU, ASTRO?

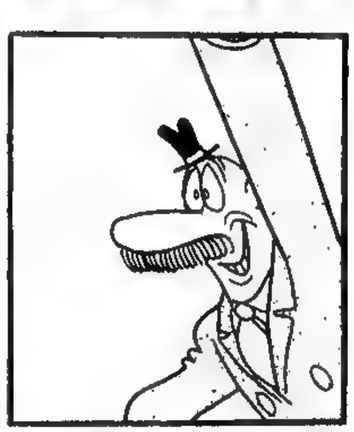

OUT ON PATROL AGAIN, OFFICERS?
YUP...WE'RE WATCHING OUT FOR ZOLOMON... IT'S EXHAUSTING WORK...

LISTEN, ASTRO, HOW COME YOU TURN DOWNED KANEYAMA'S OFFER?
WHY DIDN'T YOU BECOME ONE OF THE GUARDS?

'CUZ I DIDN'T WANT TO, THAT'S WHY...
YOU *WHAT* ?!

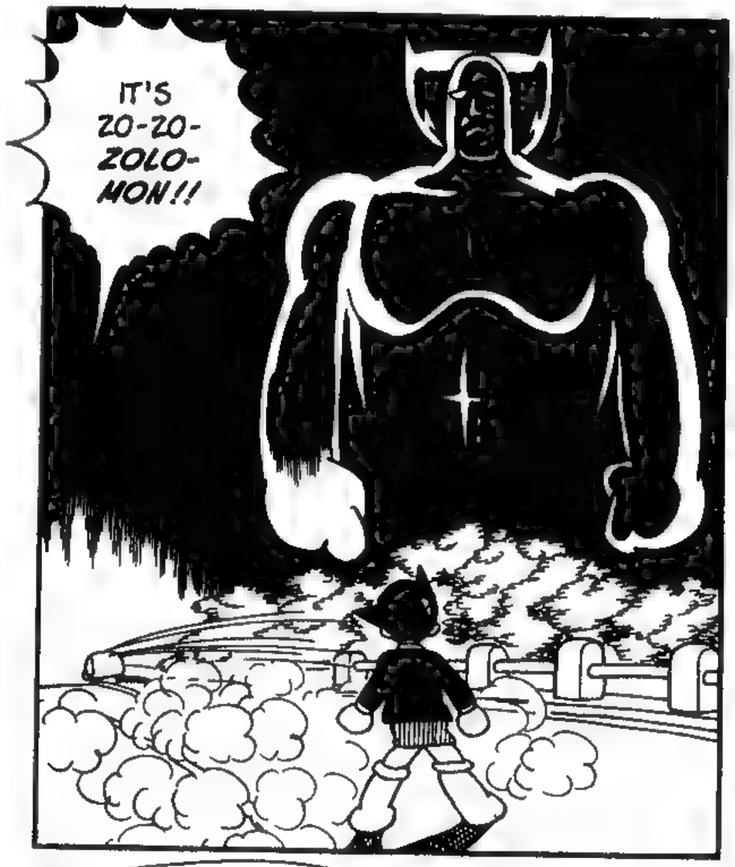
HAVEN'T YOU *HEARD* ?! ROBOTS'RE SUPPOSED TO *SERVE HUMANS* !!





H-H-HE'S HERE...

AIEEE! A MON-STER!!


IT'S ZO-ZO-*ZOLO-MON*!!

SO *YOU'RE* ZOLOMON!! WELL, YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO DEAL WITH *ME*!!
YOU CAN'T HAVE THE GEM!

I SHALL TAKE THE JEWEL! *NO ONE* WILL *STOP ME*! I SHALL *DESTROY* ANYONE WHO TRIES!!

SORRY TO TELL YOU, PAL, BUT I'VE GOT A *MILLION HORSE-POWER*!!

A MILLION HORSEPOWER? THAT'S *ALL* ?!

"THAT'S ALL"P!

THAT'S NOTHING TO ME, LITTLE ONE!!

WHY YOU ...!

TAKE THIS!

FWOOSH

KER SHUNK

HA HAR HAR HAR!

I DON'T BELIEVE IT!

IT'S LIKE THERE'S NOTHING THERE!

WHAT'S GOING ON?!

EI!!!!

GACK! NOT AGAIN!

WHAM

SMASH
SMASH
SMASH

TRY THIS ON!!

THAT'S MORE LIKE IT!

HE DISAP-PEARED!!

FWIP

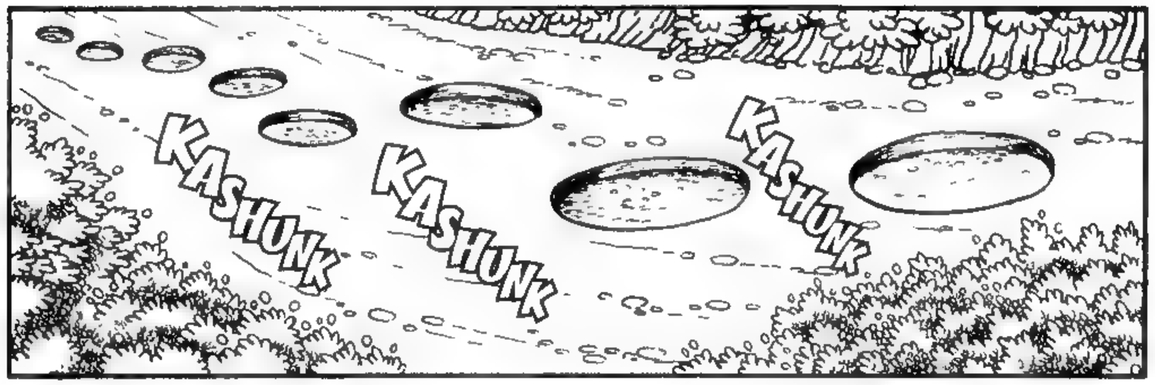
WHA?!?!

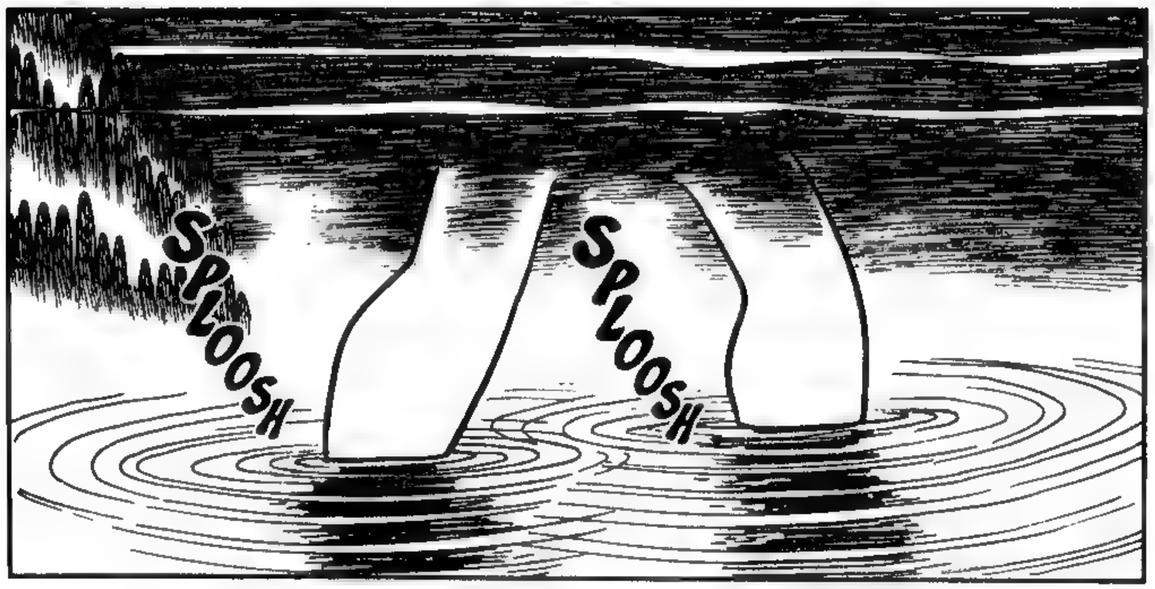
WHERE'D HE GO?! COME ON OUT, ZOLOMON!

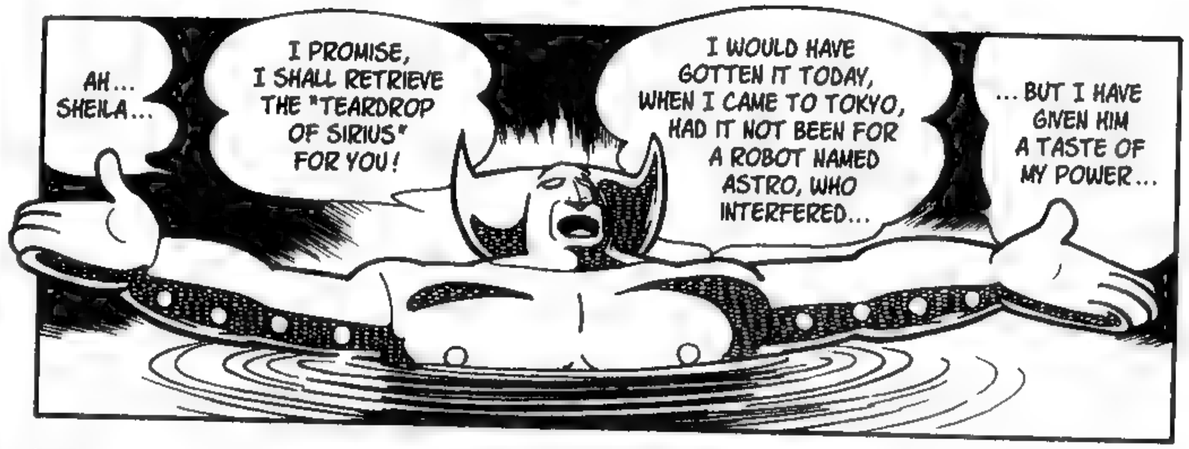
HA HA HA HA HAH

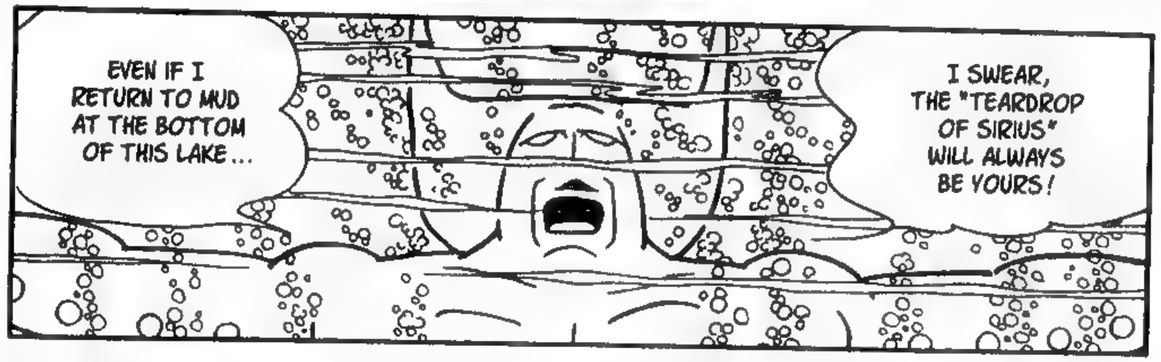
TELL KANEYAMA... IN TWO OR THREE DAYS I SHALL COME TO COLLECT THE "TEARDROP OF SIRIUS"

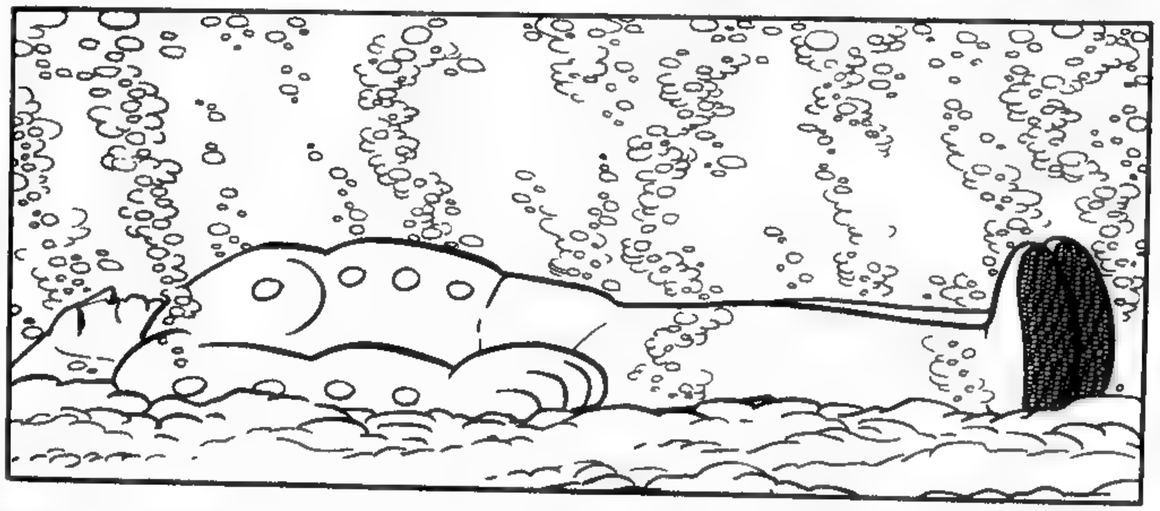
HMM... I DON'T EVEN HEAR ANY FOOT-STEPS...
NO FEET, THAT'S WHY...
WHAT IS THIS ZOLOMON, ANYWAY?
I'VE NEVER MET ANYONE LIKE HIM! HE CAN NOT ONLY DISAPPEAR, BUT TURN INTO A SHADOW THAT I CAN GO RIGHT THROUGH!
SURE DOESN'T SEEM LIKE ANY ORDINARY ROBOT!

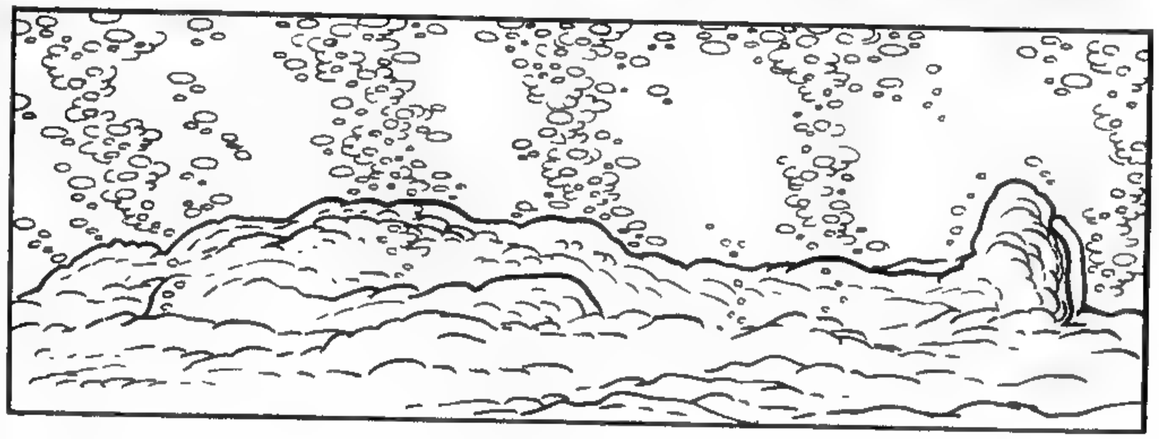

KASHUNK
KASHUNK
KASHUNK


SPLOOSH
SPLOOSH

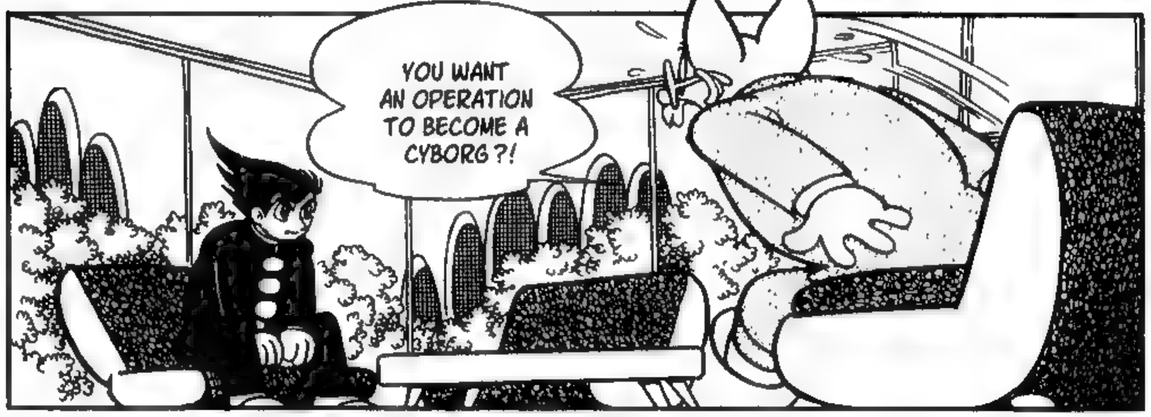

AH... SHEILA...
I PROMISE, I SHALL RETRIEVE THE "TEARDROP OF SIRIUS" FOR YOU!
I WOULD HAVE GOTTEN IT TODAY, WHEN I CAME TO TOKYO, HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR A ROBOT NAMED ASTRO, WHO INTERFERED...
... BUT I HAVE GIVEN HIM A TASTE OF MY POWER...

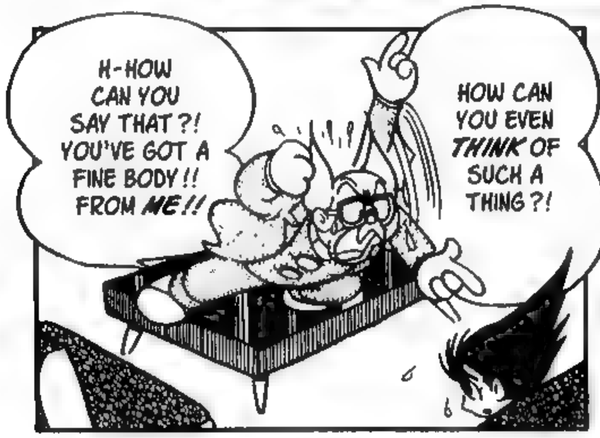

EVEN IF I RETURN TO MUD AT THE BOTTOM OF THIS LAKE...
I SWEAR, THE "TEARDROP OF SIRIUS" WILL ALWAYS BE YOURS!

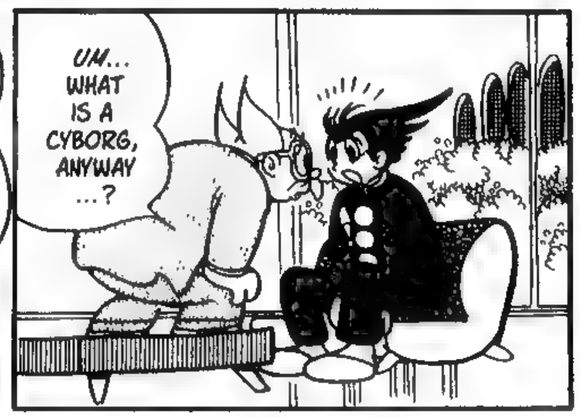


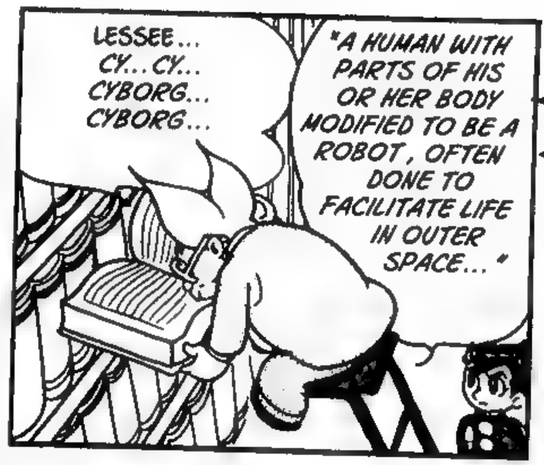


YOU WHAT?!

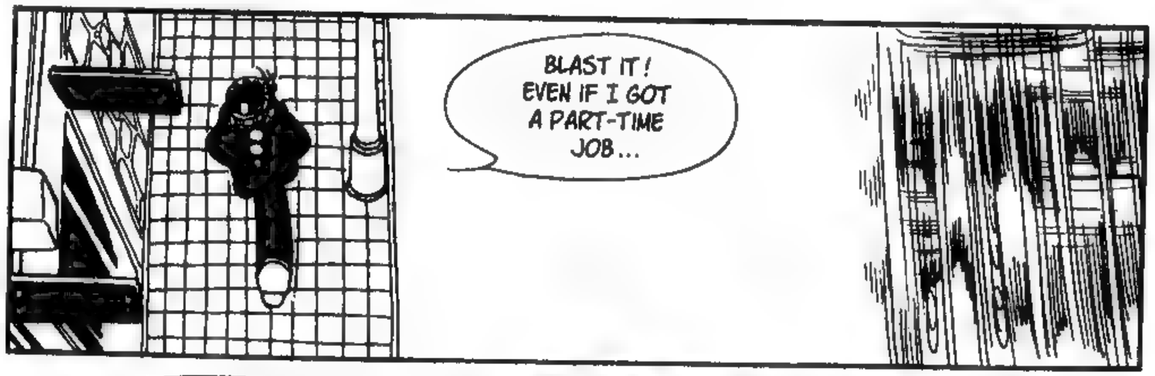

YOU WANT AN OPERATION TO BECOME A CYBORG?!


H-HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT?! YOU'VE GOT A FINE BODY!! FROM ME!!
HOW CAN YOU EVEN THINK OF SUCH A THING?!

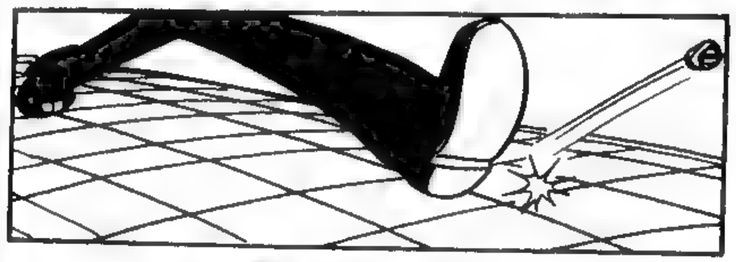

UM... WHAT IS A CYBORG, ANYWAY ...?

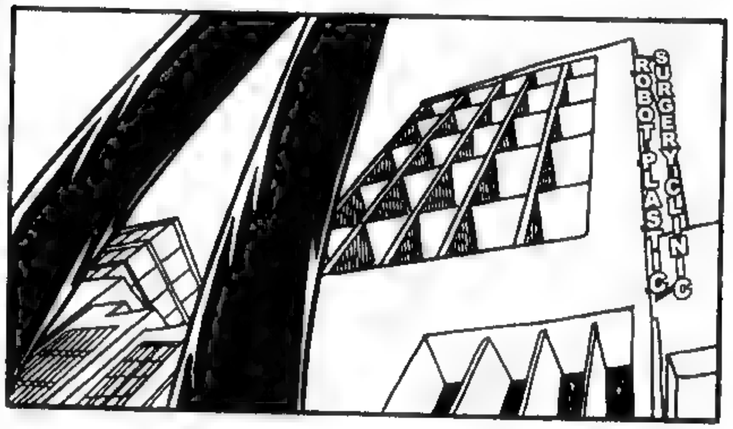

LESSEE... CY... CY... CYBORG... CYBORG...
"A HUMAN WITH PARTS OF HIS OR HER BODY MODIFIED TO BE A ROBOT, OFTEN DONE TO FACILITATE LIFE IN OUTER SPACE..."

THAT SETTLES IT, HIKARU!
I ABSOLUTELY WON'T PERMIT IT!!
NOT EVEN OVER MY DEAD BODY!!!


BLAST IT! EVEN IF I GOT A PART-TIME JOB...

...I'D STILL NEVER MAKE ENOUGH MONEY TO PAY FOR THE OPERATION BY MYSELF...




ROBOT PLASTIC SURGERY CLINIC

PLIZ C'MIN!

SNORT

WELL... IF IT ISN'T MASTER KANEYAMA...

SO, DID YOUR FATHER GIVE YOU PERMISSION?

NO...

NO? WELL NOW, THAT WON'T DO, WILL IT?

AFTER ALL, OPERATIONS DO COST MONEY, DON'T THEY...?

.....
.....

CAN'T YOU GIVE ME A DISCOUNT?

DISCOUNT? LISTEN, SON, CYBORG SURGERY TURNS YOU INTO A SPACE PERSON, WHICH REQUIRES A SPECIAL PERMIT FROM THE SPACE AGENCY...

I'M OFFERING TO DO THIS WITHOUT A PERMIT...

... AND THAT COSTS A LOT OF MONEY!

SO IF YOU CAN'T AFFORD IT, MAY I SUGGEST GIVING UP ON THE IDEA...?

NO! I'VE GOT TO BECOME A CYBORG!

BLAST IT! I NEED MONEY, AND A LOT OF IT!!

WHAT HAPPENED, SON?

NOTHING ...

SHWIP

MONEY... MONEY... MONEY....

OUT OF MY WAY, ASTRO!

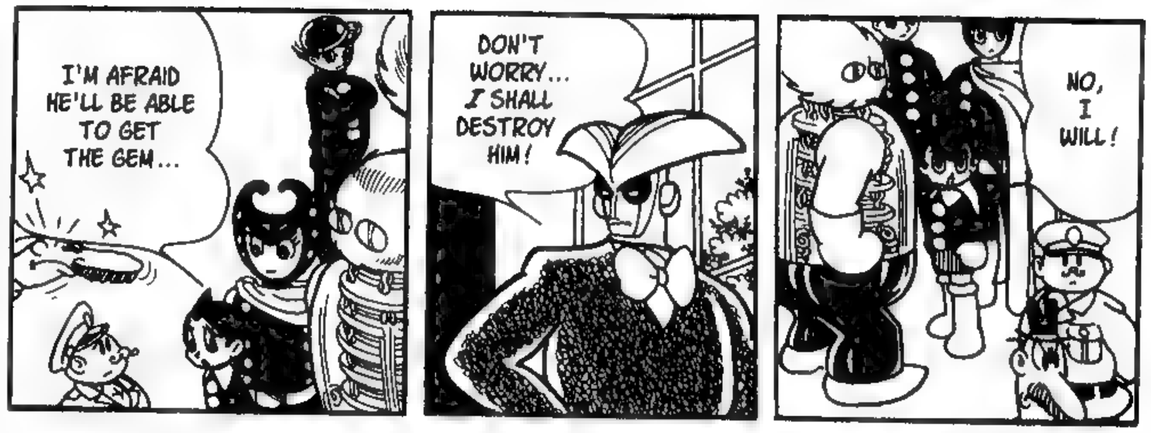
I CHANGED MY MIND, HIKARU. I'LL HELP GUARD THE GEM...

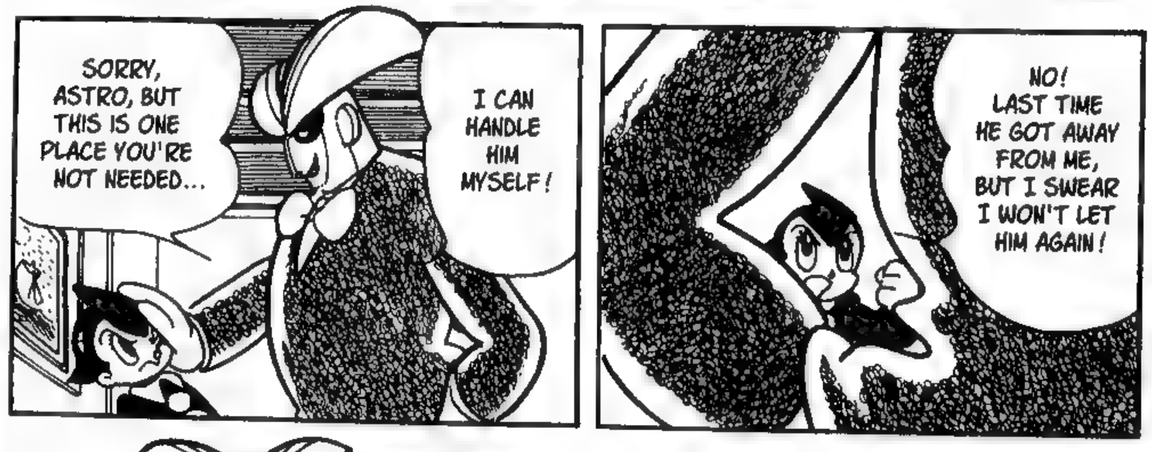
YOU'LL WHAT!?

I GOT IN A FIGHT LAST NIGHT WITH ZOLOMON...

L-44, AT YOUR SERVICE...
NOVA...
STROBO ...

HI, I'M ASTRO BOY...
SO, YOU ALREADY MET ZOLOMON?
YEAH, AND HE'S THE MOST POWERFUL ROBOT I'VE EVER MET...


I'M AFRAID HE'LL BE ABLE TO GET THE GEM...
DON'T WORRY... I SHALL DESTROY HIM!
NO, I WILL!


SORRY, ASTRO, BUT THIS IS ONE PLACE YOU'RE NOT NEEDED...
I CAN HANDLE HIM MYSELF!
NO! LAST TIME HE GOT AWAY FROM ME, BUT I SWEAR I WON'T LET HIM AGAIN!

THOSE ARE BIG WORDS FOR SUCH A SMALL ROBOT!
NO, YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S OVER-CONFIDENT, NOVA!
I'VE HAD ENOUGH. I'M GOING HOME!
MR. NOVA! SIR! WAIT!!

WE NEED EVERYONE TO CO-OPERATE!!
WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER... WE'VE GOTTA COMBINE OUR STRENGTHS, AND PROTECT THE GEM!
HOLD YOUR HORSES, GENTLEMEN... I'M KANEYAMA...
NO, I'M KANE-YAMA ...

BZZZT

HUMMMM

SHWIK SHWAK CLANK

KACHUNK

SHWIP

CHAK

SPOIK

THIS IS IT. THE "TEARDROP OF SIRIUS". THE ONE YOU'VE SEEN AND HEARD ABOUT ON TV... ESTIMATED TO BE WORTH 100 BILLION YEN!!

100 BILLION ?!!

BUT IT'S JUST A ROCK...

HOW COME IT'S SO EXPENSIVE?

WHY WOULD ANY HUMAN PAY SO MUCH FOR THAT?

AHH... THAT'S HARD FOR ROBOTS TO UNDER-STAND, ISN'T IT?

TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT IT... DON'T YOU FEEL SOME *STRANGE POWER*?

WHAT THE --?!

I CAN *HEAR* SOMETHING! SOMETHING FAINT... LIKE THE SOUND OF WAVES, LIKE THE SOUND OF A PERSON'S VOICE, FAR, FAR AWAY... WHAT ON EARTH CAN IT BE?!

YOU *HEAR* SOMETHING?! B-BUT THAT'S *IMPOSSIBLE!*

NO, IT'S NOT, MR. KANEYAMA. I CAN HEAR A THOUSAND TIMES BETTER THAN HUMANS!

WELL, IF THERE'S SOME SECRET BEHIND THIS ROCK...

...I'LL BET IT'S SOMETHING ABSOLUTELY FANTASTIC...

WHAT MAKES YOU SAY THAT?

BECAUSE *ZOLOMON*, WHO'S AFTER IT, IS A *ROBOT!*

ROBOTS AREN'T NORMALLY INTERESTED IN ROCKS! FOR US, THEY'RE *USELESS!*

THAT MAKES ME THINK HE'S NOT AFTER MONEY...

HMM... I COULD SELL THE GEMSTONE FOR ENOUGH MONEY TO PAY FOR MY OPERATION...

HAAALP!

MASTER HIKARU! WE'VE GOT AN EMERGENCY!

WHAT IS IT, JAMES *IV*?

IT'S NOT JAMES *IV*, YOUNG MASTER, I'M JAMES *III!*

AH, BUT I FELT LIKE DEMOTING YOU A RANK!

NONSENSE ASIDE, YOUNG MASTER, WE'VE GOT AN *EMERGENCY!*

OOH, AN EMERGENCY! AN EMERGENCY, ONE TWO THREE?

LAST NIGHT SOMEBODY DREW THESE WEIRD *NUMBERS* ON THE PATIO! NO HUMAN WOULD'VE DONE THIS!

STRANGE NUMBERS?! WHAT'S GOING ON?!

AH, THERE'S A FOOL WHO DREW, AND A FOOL TO VIEW, GOT TO DRAW SO SOMEONE CAN SEE!

5-28-3... WHAT THE HECK DOES THIS MEAN?

I BET IT MEANS MAY 28, 3AM...

BUT WHO WROTE IT, AND WHEN? THAT'S THE QUESTION...

IT MUST HAVE BEEN A *ROBOT*... A *GIANT* ROBOT...

ZOLOMON?!!

YOU MEAN HE CAME HERE AND DREW THIS AFTER I FOUGHT HIM LAST NIGHT?!

I BET THESE NUMBERS ARE THE TIME HE'LL COME TO STEAL THE GEM!

WHY, THAT RASCAL ZOLOMON! HE'S MAKING *FUN* OF US! HE'S PRETENDING LIKE HE'S SOME FAMOUS *JEWEL THIEF!!*

YOU FIEND, ZOLOMON! I CAN'T WAIT TO TAKE YOU ON, ROBOT-TO-ROBOT!!

5
27

BUBBLE
BUBBLE
BUBBLE
BUBBLE
BUBBLE
BUBBLE

AWAKE, ZOLOMON! REFORM FROM CLAY AND MUD!

GLUB
GLUB
BLORP
GLUB
GLORP
GLUB

O CLAY, O MUD,
O INFINITE GRAINS OF SAND...
GATHER TOGETHER AND FORM
THE FABULOUS **ZOLOMON!**

SPLOOSH

VOOSH

KASHUNK KASHUNK

SHEILA!!
TONIGHT IS THE NIGHT!
TONIGHT I SHALL RETRIEVE
THE "TEARDROP
OF SIRIUS"!

WHEEEE WHEEEE WHEEEEEE

DAD, ISN'T THERE *ANY* WAY YOU'LL GIVE ME THE MONEY FOR THE *OPERATION*?!

NEVER! NOT A SINGLE YEN! YOU'RE *OUT OF YOUR MIND!*

I'M YOUR *FATHER!!* HOW COULD I GIVE YOU MONEY FOR SOMETHING LIKE THAT?!

OKAY, DAD... IF THAT'S THE WAY YOU FEEL...

ANYONE WHO WANTS TO BECOME A ROBOT IS NO SON OF MINE!!

SLAM

KNOCK KNOCK

UM, I HEARD YOU CALLED FOR ME, MR. KANEYAMA...

ER... YES, COME ON IN, ASTRO BOY...

LISTEN... I WANT YOU TO DO ME A FAVOR. I WANT YOU TO HIDE THE GEM IN YOUR CHEST, JUST IN CASE...

HIDE IT IN *ME*?

IT'S TO FOOL ANYONE WHO TRIES TO STEAL IT! COME BACK HERE ALONE AT FIVE MINUTES TO THREE, AND WE'LL DO IT, OKAY?

UH... WHATEVER YOU SAY...

ONE MORE HOUR, AN'IT'LL BE THREE A.M.... I'M SO SCARED I'VE GOT THE SHAKES...

♪BRR♪... ♪SHIVER♪... ♪TREMBLE♪... ♪TREMBLE♪...

♪ARGH!♪

♪UNGH♪...

SLUMP

SHWK
SORRY 'BOUT THIS, DAD...
I'M HERE AT THE TIME YOU ASKED, MR. KANEYAMA...
WHA?! WHAT HAPPENED?!
SOMEBODY COME QUICK! MR. KANEYAMA'S COLLAPSED!
...AND THE GEM'S BEEN STOLEN!!
WHA?!
MURDER-ER!!
YOU! YOU DID IT! YOU TRIED TO STRANGLE ME AND STEAL THE GEM!!
ME?!

ZOOOM

O SHEILA! TONIGHT I SHALL RETRIEVE THE "TEARDROP OF SIRIUS"!

FWD

I MUST BE DRINKING TOO MUCH! I SWEAR I SAW SOMETHIN' 'N THEN IT DISAPPEARED... MAYBE IT WAS A FLASHING NEON SIGN?!

KA SHUNK

HOLY COW!!

FOOTPRINTS! FOOTPRINTS'RE WALKING WITHOUT FEET!!

KA SHUNK KA SHUNK KA SHUNK KA SHUNK

MEANWHILE, AT THE KANEYAMA MANSION

IT'S 3 A.M....

IF HE COMES, I BET IT'LL BE FROM HERE...

...OR ...OR MAYBE FROM...

GWAHAHAHAHAHA!
ZOLOMON'S THE NAME, AND I'M HERE, WHEN I SAID I WOULD BE, TO COLLECT THE JEWEL! HA HA!
HE CAME FROM BEHIND US!
ACK! IT'S ZOLOMON!
FIRE! OPEN FIRE, MEN!
NO, DON'T FIRE!
IF WE FIRE, IT'LL GO THROUGH HIM AND HIT THE HOUSE!
GWA HA HA

WH-WHADDA YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING, YOU BIG BALDY? YOU'RE TOO BIG TO EVEN ENTER THE HOUSE!
OWW, TAWASHI! GET YOUR HAND OFF MY HEAD!
...AN' BESIDES, YOU'D NEVER BE ABLE TO FIND THE GEM... HA! SERVES YOU RIGHT, YOU USELESS LUNKHEAD!
JUST WATCH...
WHAT THE --?!
HEY! THIS GUY CAN BE ANY SIZE HE WANTS!
STILL THINK I CAN'T ENTER THE HOUSE?

ROBO-GUARDS! NOW'S THE TIME! SHOW US WHAT YOU CAN DO!

FWOOSH

KERSHMASH

KID STUFF LIKE THAT WON'T WORK ON ME...

DON'T TRY IT!!

FWOOSH FWOOSH FWOOSH

"KID STUFF" ...?

TAKE THIS!!

SORRY, PAL, BUT THAT'S NOT ENOUGH TO STOP ME...

TAKE THIS!!

KA FLAASH

STROBO FIRED HIS STROBE LIGHT!!

...AND HE'S DIS-APPEARED!

STROBO! WHERE ARE YOU?!!

WATCH OUT, GUYS! ZOLOMON'S BODY'S...

LOOK! THERE HE IS!

FLASH

HIS BODY'S LIKE A *MIRAGE!*

THERE'S NOTHING TO GRAB ONTO!

ARGH...

FLASH

STROBO!

STROBO WAS DESTROYED!

...SMASHED TO PIECES...

BUT WHAT BOUT ZOLO-MON?

HE'S *DIS-APPEARED!* WE'VE GOTTA *FIND* HIM!

HOW COME YOU JUMPED THE GUN ON THAT ATTACK? YOU THREW OFF OUR TIMING!

IF ALL FOUR OF US HAD ATTACKED TOGETHER, WE MIGHT'VE BEATEN HIM!

OKAY, SO MAYBE I MESSED UP, BUT GET OFF MY BACK, OKAY?

I THOUGHT I'D BE ABLE TO HANDLE HIM BY MYSELF!!

BUT WHERE'S ASTRO?!

HOW COME HE'S OFF ON HIS OWN, JUST WHEN WE NEED HIM?

GUARD THE INSIDE OF THE BUILDING! ZOLOMON MAY HAVE GOTTEN INSIDE!

ARE YOU MR. YAMAMORI KANEYAMA? WHERE IS THE "TEARDROP OF SIRIUS"?

HAALP! DON'T KILL ME!

GIVE ME THE "TEAR-DROP OF SIRIUS," AND I WON'T KILL ANYONE...

I'LL LEAVE QUIETLY, RIGHT AWAY...

SORRY, BUT IT... IT'S ALREADY BEEN STOLEN!

I KID YOU NOT! I JUST REALIZED IT MYSELF!

YOU ARE *LYING* ...

NO! IT WAS RIGHT HERE!!

SOMEONE TRIED TO STRANGLE ME, AND STOLE IT!

IT WAS SOMEONE WITH *ROBOT* HANDS! SOMEONE INCREDIBLY *POWERFUL!*

AND WHO WAS IT?

HIM! HE WAS IN THE ROOM!

NO, IT WASN'T ME!!

WHEN I CAME IN THE ROOM, MR. KANEYAMA WAS ALREADY UNCON-SCIOUS!

BUT ASTRO! I TOLD YOU TO HIDE THE JEWEL IN YOUR CHEST SO NO ONE'D FIND IT! I BET YOU USED WHAT I TOLD YOU TO STEAL IT!

NO! I DIDN'T!

WE ARE RUNNING OUT OF TIME...

OPEN YOUR CHEST, ASTRO BOY, AND GIVE ME THE JEWEL...

NO!

I DON'T HAVE IT!

TRAMP CLOMP

CLOMP TRAMP TRAMP

KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK

MR. KANEYAMA! MR. KANEYAMA!

IT'S ME! INSPECTOR TAWASHI! ARE YOU OKAY?!

GIVE ME THE JEWEL, ASTRO BOY!

WHAT A MESS! NOBODY BELIEVES ME!

I'D BETTER GET OUT OF HERE...

BUT I DON'T HAVE IT!

STOP!

STOP, ASTRO!

KERSMASH

ACK! DON'T TRASH EVERYTHING!

VROOOM

FWP

BAM

JUST WHEN I THINK YOU'RE FORMLESS, YOU'RE NOT!

NO USE TRYING TO ESCAPE, ASTRO...

IF YOU DON'T HAND IT OVER, I'LL TURN YOU INTO SCRAP!

NO! I DIDN'T STEAL IT! AND ROBOTS DON'T LIE!

YOU OUGHT TO KNOW THAT!!

IT'S *TIME* FOR YOU TO HAND IT OVER!!

ARGH!

YIKES!

TIME TO FIGHT BACK!

A MILLION HORSE-POWER PUNCH!

WHA?! I FLEW RIGHT THROUGH HIM AGAIN!

I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO WIN THIS WAY... I'LL JUST RUN OUT OF ENERGY...

HEY, ZOLO-MON... STOP...

YOU HAVEN'T TOLD ME ANYTHING...

WHO ORDERED YOU TO GET THIS GEM, AND WHY?!

I NEED TO STALL FOR ABOUT AN HOUR... 'TIL IT'S DAYLIGHT...

HE ONLY COMES OUT AT NIGHT, SO HE'S GOTTA HAVE SOME PROBLEM WITH THE DAY...

WHO ORDERED ME?

SHEILA DID.

WHO'S SHEILA?

MY MISTRESS...

I KNOW THERE'S SOMETHING WEIRD ABOUT THAT ROCK...

I CAN HEAR VOICES COMING FROM IT... AND STRANGE SOUNDS LIKE THE OCEAN...

YOU HAVE GOOD EARS...

SO WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH THE JEWEL, ZOLOMON? IT'S NOT REALLY A JEWEL, RIGHT?

.....

YOU CAN TELL ME, ZOLOMON! I WON'T TELL ANYONE ELSE!

.....
.....

C'MON, TELL ME... AS LONG AS IT'S NOT SOMETHING BAD, I'LL GIVE IT BACK TO YOU...

YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE ME...

NO, I WILL, ZOLOMON, I WILL...

WELL, IT'S A WHOLE *WORLD*...

A WORLD?

YES. YOU WERE RIGHT. IT'S NOT A GEMSTONE. IT'S A WORLD.

THERE'S A WORLD IN IT, LIKE THIS WORLD ...

UH OH...

DAWN'S APPROACHING! ASTRO... YOU... YOU *KNEW* THE SUN WEAKENS ME, DIDN'T YOU?

SO I WAS *RIGHT*...

WAIT! DON'T GO!

BLAST IT! HE DISAPPEARED!

BUT AT LEAST HIS POWER'LL BE REDUCED...

CRUMBLE

WHA?! THESE ARE PIECES OF *CLAY!*

...MORE PIECES OF CLAY FALLING ...

CRUMBLE

... AND FOOT-PRINTS !!

THERE! THERE HE IS!

SHEILA... FORGIVE ME...

I EXPERIENCED MY FIRST FAILURE ... I COULD NOT OBTAIN THE JEWEL...

TOMOR-ROW NIGHT...

...I SHALL GET BACK IT FROM ASTRO BOY...

FORGIVE ME...

SPLISH

GLUB GLUB

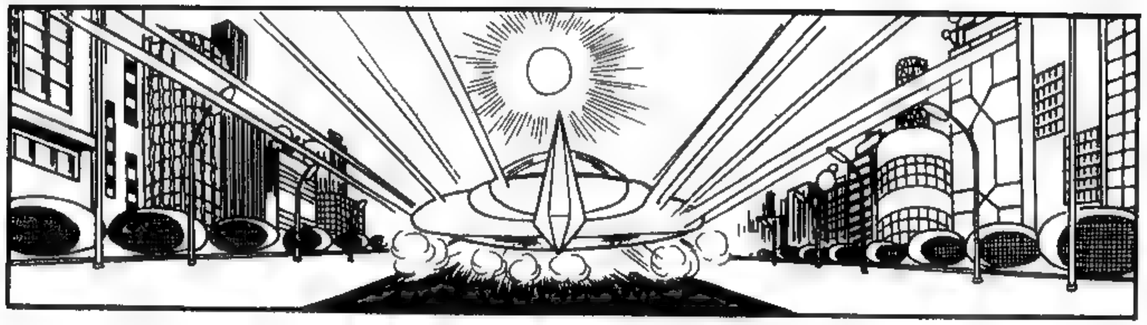
HERE'S A PILE OF RUBBLE IN THE SHAPE OF ZOLO-MON!

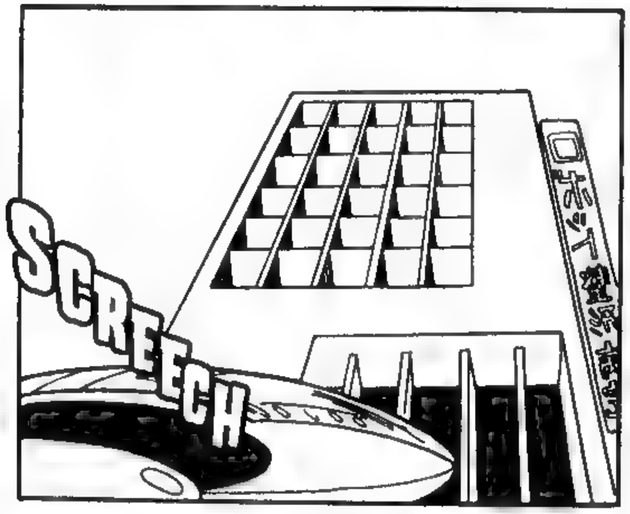
COULD THIS REALLY BE HIM?

IS HE REALLY A CLAY-FOOTED MONSTER?

AND TO-NIGHT ...

... WILL HE REALLY COME BACK TO LIFE?

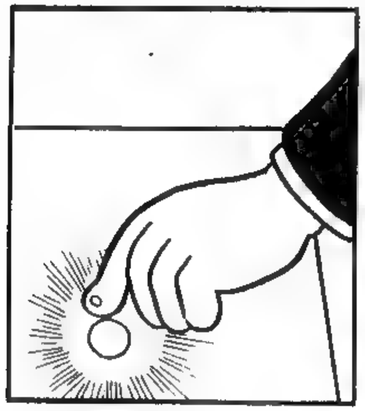



SCREECH

WELL, WELL, WELL...

IF IT ISN'T MASTER HIKARU KANEYAMA.

I BROUGHT THE MONEY...

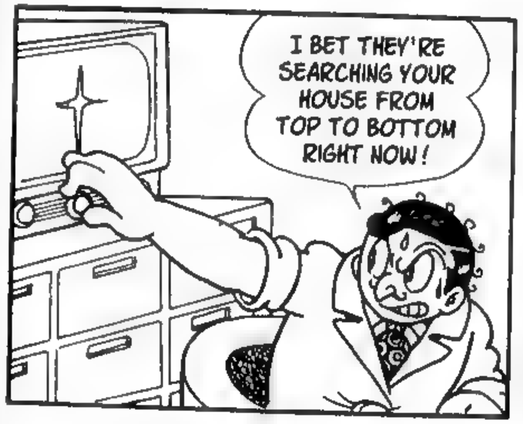


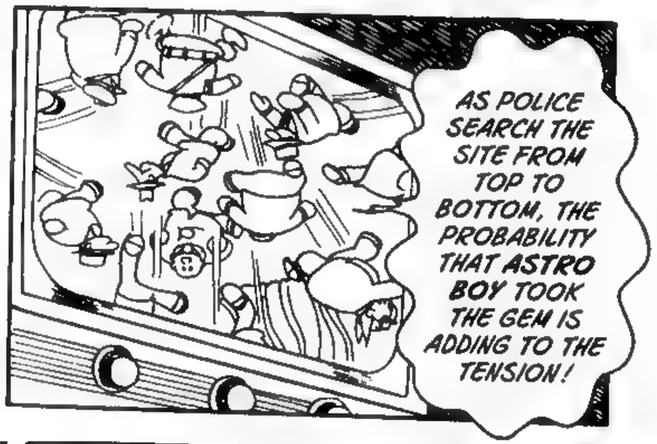
THIS IS THE "TEARDROP OF SIRIUS," ISN'T IT?

.....
.....
.....

IT'S THE REAL THING, ALL RIGHT...

YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE THIS! WHAT'LL YOUR FATHER SAY?
.....
.....


I BET THEY'RE SEARCHING YOUR HOUSE FROM TOP TO BOTTOM RIGHT NOW!


AS POLICE SEARCH THE SITE FROM TOP TO BOTTOM, THE PROBABILITY THAT ASTRO BOY TOOK THE GEM IS ADDING TO THE TENSION!

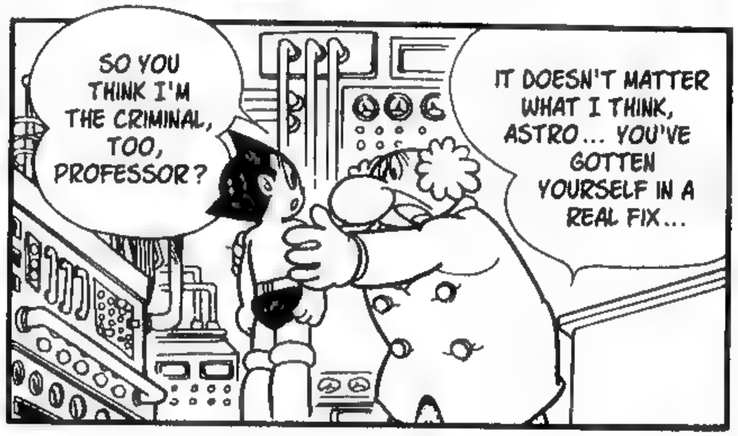
MY DAD THINKS ASTRO BOY DID IT, SEE?

SO YOU CAN SELL IT OVERSEAS LATER, AN' NO ONE'LL KNOW!
HMM. MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT...

SO HOW ABOUT IT? CAN YOU DO THE OPERATION?
WHETHER I CAN OR NOT... THIS THING IS WORTH A LOT OF MONEY...

SO YOU WILL TURN ME INTO A CYBORG, RIGHT?
IT'S A DEAL, YOUNG MAN. COME HERE SECRETLY TOMORROW MORNING...

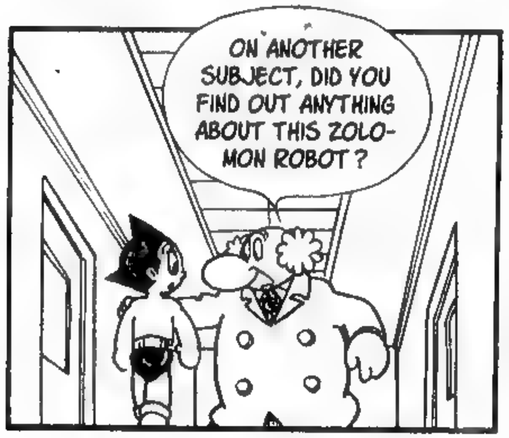
I HEARD WHAT YOU DID ON THE NEWS, ASTRO!!

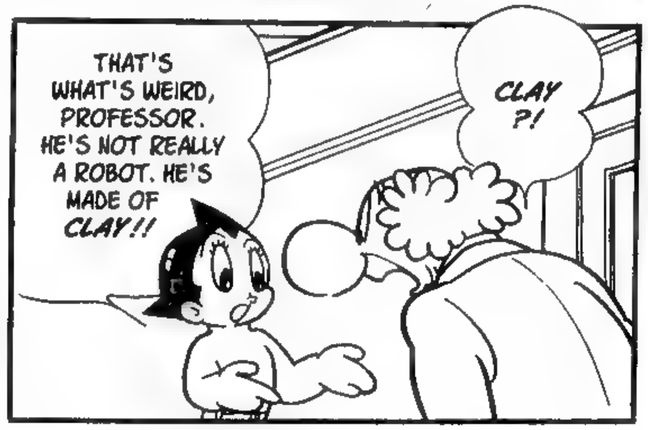

SO YOU THINK I'M THE CRIMINAL, TOO, PROFESSOR?
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT I THINK, ASTRO... YOU'VE GOTTEN YOURSELF IN A REAL FIX...

IT WASN'T ME, PROFESSOR. AND IT WASN'T ZOLOMON, EITHER...

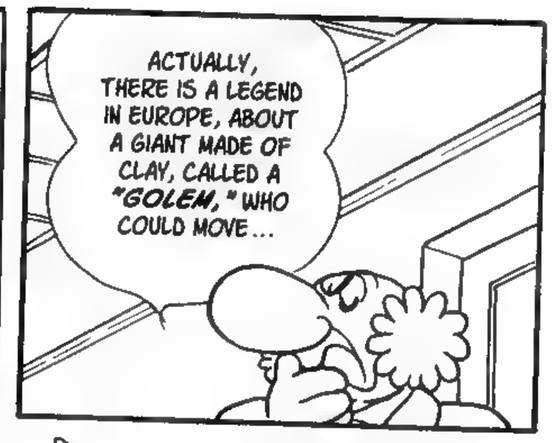
DON'T WORRY, ASTRO, I'LL TRY TO COVER FOR YOU...
BUT WE'VE GOTTA FIND THE ONE WHO DID IT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!

IF WE DON'T, INSPECTOR TAWASHI 'N HIS MEN'LL MAKE LIFE AWFULLY DIFFICULT FOR US...


ON ANOTHER SUBJECT, DID YOU FIND OUT ANYTHING ABOUT THIS ZOLO-MON ROBOT?


THAT'S WHAT'S WEIRD, PROFESSOR. HE'S NOT REALLY A ROBOT. HE'S MADE OF CLAY!!
CLAY?!

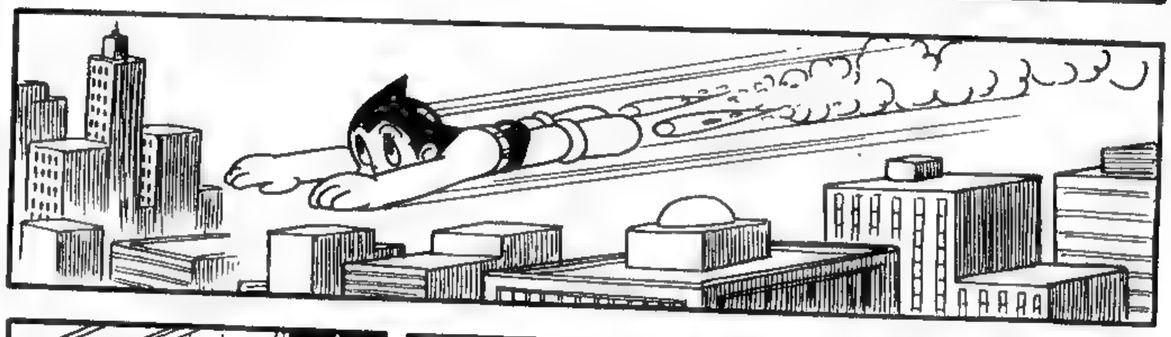
BUT HOW CAN A HEAP OF CLAY IN THE SHAPE OF A HUMAN MOVE AROUND LIKE THAT?
WELL...

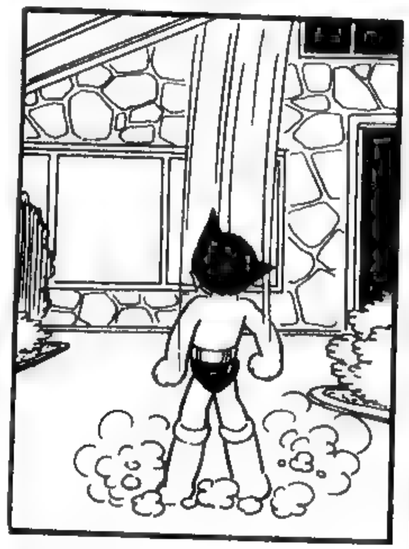

ACTUALLY, THERE IS A LEGEND IN EUROPE, ABOUT A GIANT MADE OF CLAY, CALLED A "GOLEM," WHO COULD MOVE...

IN THIS CASE, THE PERSON CONTROLLING THE GIANT'S SOMEONE CALLED "SHEILA"...

SHEILA? HMM. DOESN'T RING A BELL...

GOOD LUCK, ASTRO! BE CAREFUL!
I'LL TRY'N FIND OUT AS MUCH AS I CAN ABOUT THESE SHADY CHARACTERS, PROFESSOR...





WHAT?! ASTRO'S HERE?!

=HMPH=... HE'S GOT A LOT OF NERVE...

YOU MAY BE A ROBOT, ASTRO, BUT YOU'VE GONE TOO FAR!

I CAME HERE TO CLEAR THINGS UP, NOVA...

I NEED YOU TO HELP ME FIND THE ONE REALLY BEHIND THIS...

SILENCE !!

IT'S CURTAINS FOR YOU, JEWEL THIEF!!

ACK!

SMASH

WAIT!!

CRASH

BASH

WHAT'RE YOU DOING, NOVA?! I *DIDN'T* STEAL THE GEM!!

ENOUGH LIES OUT OF YOU!! GIVE IT BACK! *NOW!* AND *APOLOGIZE!!*

WHOOSH

WHOOSH

SMASH

NO! NO!

IT WASN'T ME!!!

YOU'VE GOT A LOT OF NERVE TO STEAL THE GEM AND THEN PRETEND YOU *DIDN'T* DO IT!!

HELP! I'M MELTING!!

WHOOSH

WHOOSH

WHOOSH

YOU'RE *WRONG* ABOUT ME, NOVA!!!

KAVOMP

IT'S TIME FOR ACTION!

RUN AWAY, EH? YOU *COWARD* !!

WHO'S RUNNING AWAY?!

BOMP

ZIP

ZIP

KAPOW

VOOSH

VOOSH

TAKE THIS!

SMACK

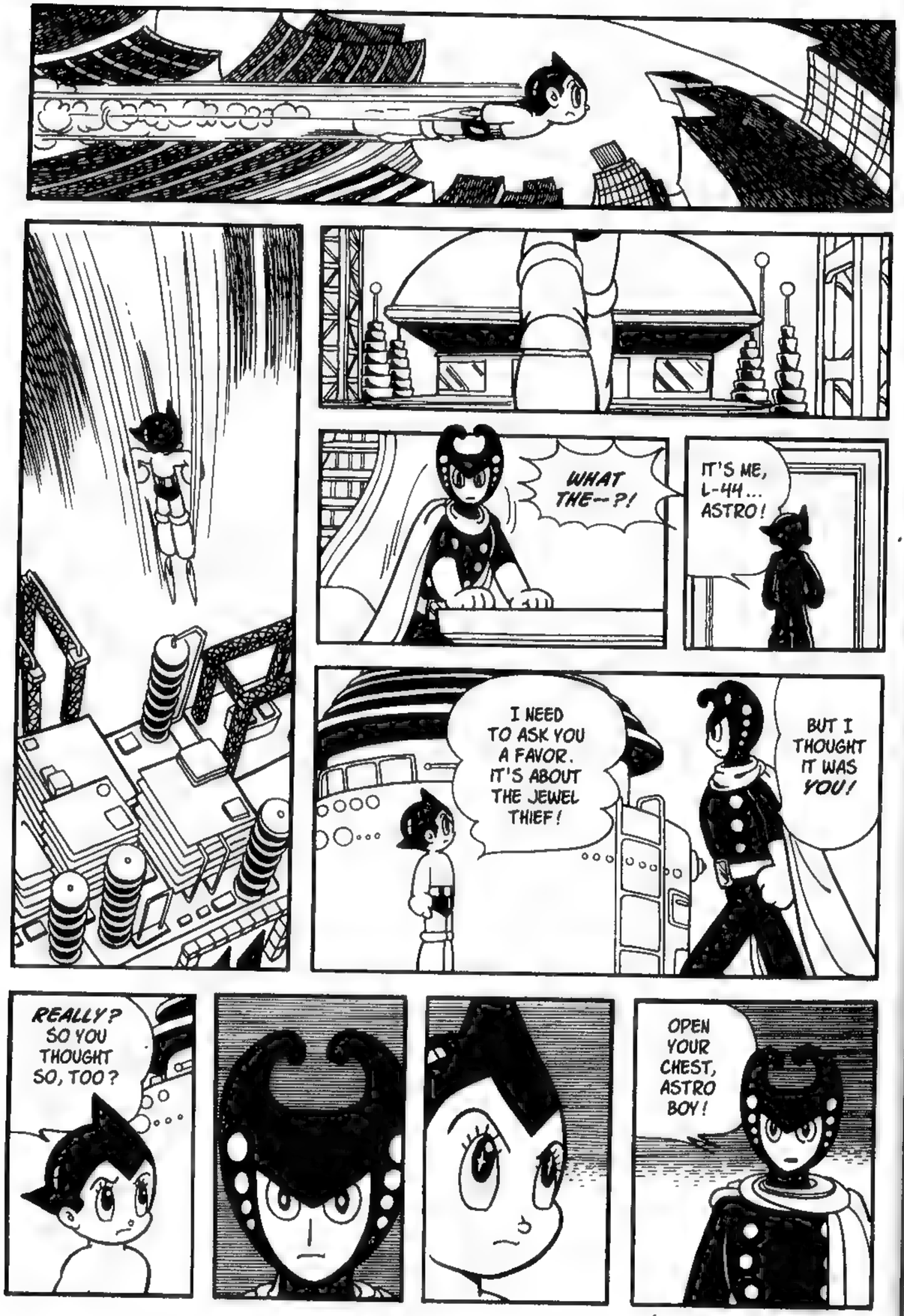
OW OW OW!

SORRY, BUT YOU JUST DON'T GET IT, DO YOU!?

SMACK SMACK OW

I CAME HERE TO ASK FOR YOUR HELP! BUT AFTER THIS, *FORGET IT!!*

ASK PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU AT THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE TO REPAIR YOU!!


WHAT THE--P!
IT'S ME, L-44... ASTRO!
I NEED TO ASK YOU A FAVOR. IT'S ABOUT THE JEWEL THIEF!
BUT I THOUGHT IT WAS YOU!
REALLY? SO YOU THOUGHT SO, TOO?
OPEN YOUR CHEST, ASTRO BOY!

WHAT P!
DO AS I SAY! OPEN IT!
LET ME SEE INSIDE!
HM... CIRCUITS ALL LOOK FINE...
I CAN TELL RIGHT AWAY IF A ROBOT'S GONE HAYWIRE...
YOU'RE NORMAL, ASTRO, SO I KNOW YOU COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT!
GOSH, L44! I'M SURE GLAD YOU BELIEVE ME!!
WHEN I ENTERED THE ROOM WHERE THE JEWEL WAS S'POSED TO BE, IT'D ALREADY BEEN STOLEN! MR. KANEYAMA WAS PASSED OUT ON THE FLOOR!!
HMMM...
AND YOU SAY SOMEONE TRIED TO STRANGLE HIM?!

"ANY WAY YOU CAN BE SURE IT WASN'T A ROBOT?"

THERE'S NO WAY TO REALLY TELL...

BUT A HUMAN COULD'VE BEEN WEARING METAL GLOVES...

WHAT?!

YOU MEAN A HUMAN COULD'VE STOLEN THE GEM...

...AND TRIED TO MAKE IT LOOK LIKE A ROBOT DID IT?

MEANWHILE...

DON'T WORRY... THE POLICE THINK A ROBOT STOLE THE GEM...

FOR A SPOILED RICH KID, YOU'RE PRETTY CLEVER... HEH HEH...

JUST MAKE ME INTO A CYBORG, OKAY?!

OKAY... OKAY...

B-BUT FIRST...

...LEMME STORE THIS BEAUTY SOME-PLACE SAFE ...

I'LL START THE ANESTHESIA NOW...

START COUNTING TO TWENTY, HOKAY?

WHEN I WAKE UP... I'LL BE A CYBORG, RIGHT?

=OINK=

TOO LATE TO WORRY NOW!

START COUNT-ING!

1 2 3 4

5 6

7 8

9 10

11 12

13

BACK AT THE KANEYAMA MANSION...

I FOUND SOME IMPORTANT EVIDENCE, ASTRO!

TAKE A LOOK AT *THIS!*

IT'S A DURALUMINUM GLOVE, MADE TO LOOK LIKE A ROBOT'S HAND!

WHERE WAS IT, THOUGH?

...IN A CHEST DRAWER IN KANEYAMA'S SON'S ROOM... WOULD YOU BELIEVE IT?

...*HIKARU* DID IT?!

B-BUT THAT CAN'T BE!! YOU MEAN HIKARU TRIED TO STRANGLE HIS... *HIS OWN FATHER?!*

I AGREE... IT DOESN'T SOUND POSSIBLE!!

WE'VE GOTTA FIND HIKARU RIGHT AWAY!

I THINK HE LEFT HERE IN A CAR, ASTRO!

WHAT KIND?

A YELLOW AIR-CAR...

THE ANESTHESIA'S TAKEN EFFECT, DOCTOR...

I'LL BE RIGHT THERE...

HERE TA MEET YA!

HEH HEE HEEE HEEE HA!

I *NEVER* TIRE OF LOOKING AT THIS THING...

THE MORE I LOOK, THE MORE *BEAUTIFUL* IT IS!

WHA?!

I COULD ALMOST SWEAR IT'S GETTING *BIGGER!*

WAIT A MINUTE! IT *IS* GROWING IN SIZE!!!

EGADS!!

UH OH... THE GEM'S NOT GROWING! I'M SHRINKING!!

HALP!!

HELP! I'M DISAP-PEARING!! SOMEBODY HELP!!

.....

DOCTOR, TIME FOR SURGERY...

WHAT THE --?!

OHMYGOSH! A GEM!!

KINDA SLOW ON THE UPTAKE, NO?

I...I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING SOO BEEOOTIFUL!

WONDER IF IT'S A DIAMOND? OR A CRYSTAL?

ULP!

I-I'M... GETTING S-SMALLER!!

=BUAAH=!

FWP

TIC TOC TIC TOC

TIC TOC TIC TOC

HUHN?!

I MUST BE A CYBORG NOW...

FUNNY, BUT I DON'T FEEL ANY DIFFERENT...

...BUT COULD THE OPERATION REALLY BE OVER ALREADY?

ASTRO!! WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?!

SWAM

SO *THIS* IS WHERE YOU WERE, HIKARU... WELL, WE'VE GOT SOMETHING TO SHOW YOU!

WHAT DID YOU USE *THIS* FOR?!

WHA?!

I BET YOU USED IT TO STRANGLE YOUR DAD AND STEAL THE GEM... HOW ABOUT IT?!

ASTRO! I FOUND THE GEM! IT WAS IN THE NEXT ROOM!

YOU BLASTED ROBOT!!

TIME TO FESS UP, HIKARU... WE'VE GOT THE EVIDENCE...

STOP, HIKARU! YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING!!

I DON'T?! WELL, I'M A *CYBORG* NOW! STRONG ENOUGH TO TAKE ON ROBOTS LIKE YOU!!

FWISH

KNOCK IT OFF, HIKARU!!

SMASH

CRASH!

BAM

BONK

.....
.....

I... I'M STILL A MERE HUMAN, AREN'T I...?

≠SOB≠... WHY CAN'T THINGS GO RIGHT...?

I STOLE THE GEM FROM MY DAD, AND MADE IT LOOK LIKE A ROBOT HAD DONE IT...

I'M SORRY, PROFES-SOR... I KNOW I SHOULDN'T HAVE...

LISTEN, HIKARU!!

IT'S NOT *ME* YOU SHOULD APOLOGIZE TO, BUT THE *PUBLIC!!* ESPECIALLY THE *ROBOT PUBLIC!*

PLEASE, PROFESSOR... DON'T MAKE ME APOLOGIZE TO ROBOTS...

ANYTHING BUT THAT...

ASHAMED TO SHOW YOUR FACE TO ROBOTS, ARE YOU? AND WHY'S THAT, EH?

FWAP

THUD THUD

LOOK WHAT YOU'VE DONE! THEY CAN'T UNDERSTAND YOU, SO THEIR CIRCUITS'VE GONE HAYWIRE AND MADE THEM *BREAK DOWN!*

I'LL KEEP THIS GEM HERE FOR SAFEKEEPING! YOUR DAD CAN COME PICK IT UP LATER...

IN THE INTERIM, DON'T YOU DARE LEAVE THIS ROOM!

WHAT A NUTCASE THAT KID IS...

A REAL SPOILED BRAT!

WHEW! WHAT A MESS THAT WAS...

LEAST NO ONE SUSPECTS YOU ANY MORE!

THIS SURE IS A BEAUTIFUL GEM, THOUGH...

UM, PROFESSOR... YOU KNOW WHAT? THAT THING'S GIVING OFF SOME SORT OF SOUND...

SOUND?! WHAT THE HECK DO YOU MEAN?!

SOUND

WELL... TRY GETTING CLOSE AND LISTENING...

HMPH... YOUR EARS ARE TOO GOOD, ASTRO! I CAN'T HEAR ANYTHING!

PROFES-SOR!!

GOSH... DON'T SCARE ME LIKE THAT...

SOMETHING WEIRD'S GOING ON!

WE'RE BOTH GETTING *SMALLER*, PROFESSOR!!

LOOK, PROFESSOR! THE GEM LOOKS BIGGER AND BIGGER! BUT WE'RE GETTING *SMALLER* AND *SMALLER!*

ACK! THIS COULD BE *SERIOUS!*

YOU'RE NOT KIDDING, ASTRO! MY LEG'S WON'T EVEN REACH THE GROUND ANYMORE!

WATCH OUT, PROFESSOR! THE GEM MUST BE GIVING OFF SOME SPECIAL RADIATION!

WHOOPS-A-DAISY!

WHA?! *THAT'S* THE GEM? IT'S STARTING TO LOOK LIKE A *GIANT METEOR!*

THERE'S NOWHERE TO ESCAPE TO, ASTRO!! WHAT'LL WE DO?

I DON'T KNOW...

THE METEORITE'S GROWING AS BIG AS A *PLANET!*

... BUT WE'RE STILL GETTING SMALLER AND SMALLER!

WONDER WHAT THIS IS?

AIR-BORNE DUST PARTICLES, THAT'S WHAT!!

WATCH OUT, ASTRO!

WHOOOOSH

WE'RE BEING DRAWN NTO THAT GIANT ORB!

IT'S A POWERFUL GRAVITATIONAL FORCE! *AIEEE!*

WHOOOSH

IF THIS IS THE SURFACE OF THE GEMSTONE, WE'RE ON IT LIKE A PAIR OF FLEAS!

THESE DUST PARTICLES ARE LIKE METEORITES!! ONE BULL'S EYE AND I'M A GONER!

I'VE GOTTA FIND SOME PLACE TO TAKE SHELTER!

THAT WAS *CLOSE!!*

PROFESSOR... IS THIS WHAT PEOPLE CALL HELL?

SURE LOOKS LIKE IT... WE'RE EVEN SMALLER THAN BACTERIA NOW, ASTRO...

I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS! IT DOESN'T SEEM *POSSIBLE!!*

WONDER IF WE CAN EVER RETURN TO NORMAL?

DON'T ASK ME, 'CUZ I DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER, ASTRO!

I JUST WISH I COULD OPEN MY EYES AND FIND IT WAS ALL A *DREAM!*

LOOK, PROFESSOR! THIS CAVE GOES ALL THE WAY BACK!

THIS CAN'T BE A GEMSTONE! THIS HAS GOTTA BE A *REAL PLANET!*

WHA?!

PROFESSOR! *LOOK!*

WOW! THIS IS AMAZING!

THESE TUBES'RE *MAN-MADE*, ASTRO!

THE FURTHER WE GO, THE MORE COMPLICATED THIS THING GETS!

B...BUT WHY'RE THERE MAN-MADE TUBES INSIDE SOMETHING WE THOUGHT WAS A GEMSTONE?!

LOOK OVER THERE, PROFESSOR!

I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS!

WELL, WELL, WELL... IF IT ISN'T PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU AND ASTRO BOY!!

HI... I'M *SWARD*, HIGH PRIEST OF THE CITY-STATE OF *BELLAROID!*

B-BUT HOW'D YOU KNOW MY NAME?

HA HA HA! I KNOW EVERYTHING! YOU SAW A BUNCH OF PIPES ON THE WAY IN HERE, RIGHT?

THOSE ARE ULTRA ADVANCED LISTENING DEVICES! THEY LET US HEAR EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENS OUTSIDE OF BELLAROID!

WE KNOW *EVERYTHING* THAT'S GOING ON!

SO *THAT'S* HOW YOU KNEW ABOUT US!

YES, BUT NEVER MIND THAT NOW. MISTRESS SHEILA IS WAITING TO SEE YOU!

SHEILA?!

PSST... PROFESSOR... THAT'S THE NAME ZOLOMON USED!

I HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU, PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU!

WELCOME TO BELLAROID! I AM SHEILA!

A... A HEAD! WITHOUT A BODY!!

HA HA HA HA! SO MY FORM SURPRISES YOU?!

I SUPPOSE IT WOULD, WOULDN'T IT?! HA HA!

LISTEN, I NEED SOME ANSWERS! WHAT *IS* BELLAROID? AND WHY DON'T YOU HAVE A *BODY*?!

A BODY WOULD ONLY GET IN THE WAY OF THINKING, SO I GOT RID OF IT...

GOT RID OF IT?!

THERE'S AN OPERATION TO DO THAT?

SIT DOWN. LET ME EXPLAIN...

FWIP

FWIP

MANY TRAGEDIES OCCUR IN THIS UNIVERSE...

"... AND ONE SUCH TRAGEDY HAPPENED TO THE SUN IN *PROMETH*, OUR SOLAR SYSTEM..."

"OUR COMPUTER SYSTEMS INFORMED US THAT OUR SUN WOULD COLLIDE WITH ANOTHER SUN IN FIVE THOUSAND YEARS..."

"IT WAS A TERRIFYING WARNING... WE FELT AS THOUGH WE HAD been SENTENCED TO DEATH..."

ROAR ROAR ROAR ROAR ROAR ROAR ROAR

5,000 YEARS IN THE FUTURE?

BUT THAT'S MIND-BOGGLING!

"NONETHELESS, WE STARTED TRYING TO COME UP WITH A WAY TO SAVE OUR PLANET!!"

"THE PEOPLE OF BELLAROID SPARED NO ENERGY..."

"WE TRIED DESPERATELY TO DEVISE A SOLUTION, USING ALL OUR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY!"

"PEOPLE EVENTUALLY BEGAN TO DESPAIR..."

"BUT THE DAY OF DECISION STEADILY APPROACHED ..."

"BUT THEN I WAS BORN... IT WAS AS THOUGH I HAD BEEN BORN TO SAVE BELLAROID!"

"I WAS RAISED AS A FEMALE SCIENTIST..."

ドカーン

BANG!

"I EVEN INVENTED A FOUR-DIMENSIONAL PROJECTION SYSTEM..."

FOUR DIMENSIONAL PROJECTION? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

I'M SURE *YOU* UNDERSTAND, PROFESSOR!

IT WAS DESIGNED TO SEND OUR ENTIRE WORLD INTO THE FOURTH DIMENSION.

SPACE, SIZE, TIME, AND WEIGHT ARE ALL VARIABLE IN THE FOURTH DIMENSION, SO WE MOVED BELLAROID THERE...

WE SHRUNK THE *ENTIRE* PLANET, WITH ALL THE PEOPLE LIVING ON IT, TO THE SIZE OF A *PEA*.

AND WHAT'S MORE...

I REALIZED THAT WE COULD WARP-TRAVEL A DISTANCE OF DOZENS OF LIGHT YEARS.

WARP-TRAVEL?!

WHAT'S THAT?

IT MAKES IT POSSIBLE TO MOVE FROM ONE PLACE TO ANOTHER IN AN INSTANT!

"FINALLY, THE DAY OF COLLISION HAD BEEN PREDICTED TO OCCUR, APPROACHED..."

"... AND FINALLY, WE PUT BELLAROID INTO WARP MODE."

FLASH

"THE PLANET SHRANK TO A SPEC..."

"... AND BECAME A LIGHT BARELY VISIBLE THROUGH TELESCOPES."

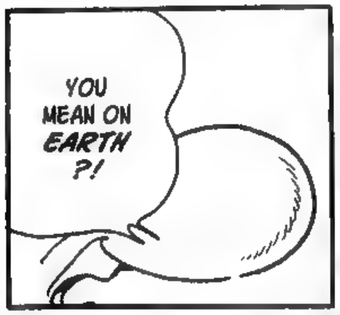
"IT HURTLED TOWARD ANOTHER YELLOW STAR..."

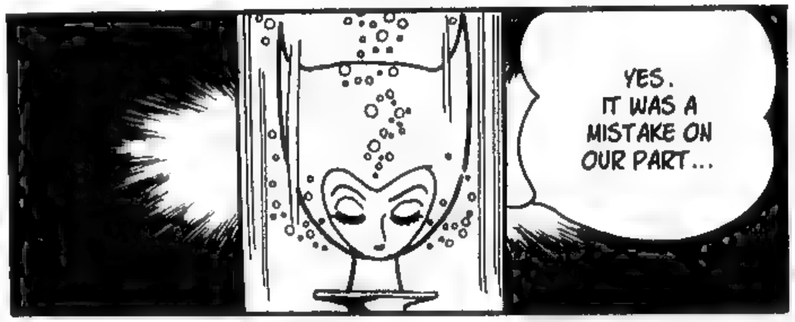
"... THAT WAS EXACTLY LIKE OURS..."

OTHER PLANETS ...YOU MEAN LIKE EARTH AND MARS?

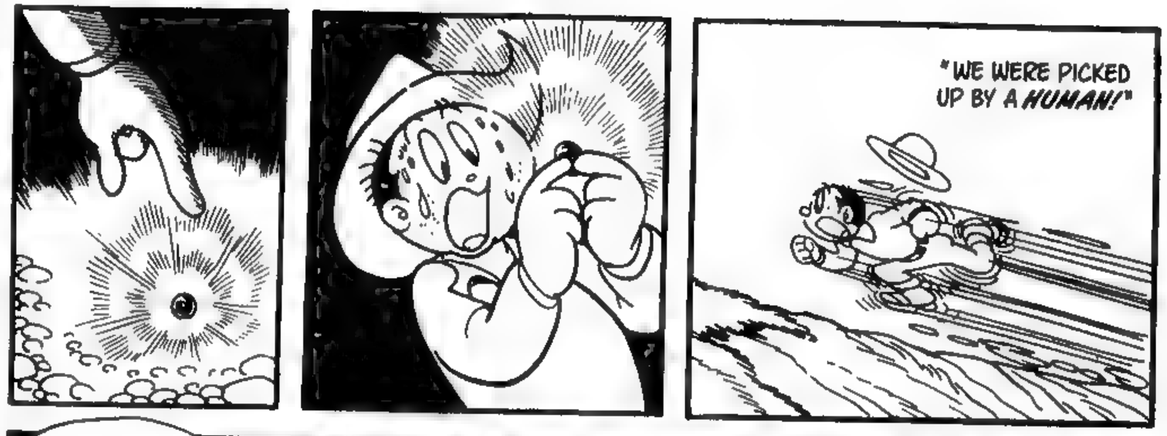
"I CAREFULLY LANDED BELLAROID ON THE SURFACE OF THE PLANET..."

"WHEN WE ARRIVED NEXT TO THE OTHER STAR, WE REALIZED IT HAD NINE PLANETS CIRCLING IT..."


YOU MEAN ON EARTH P!

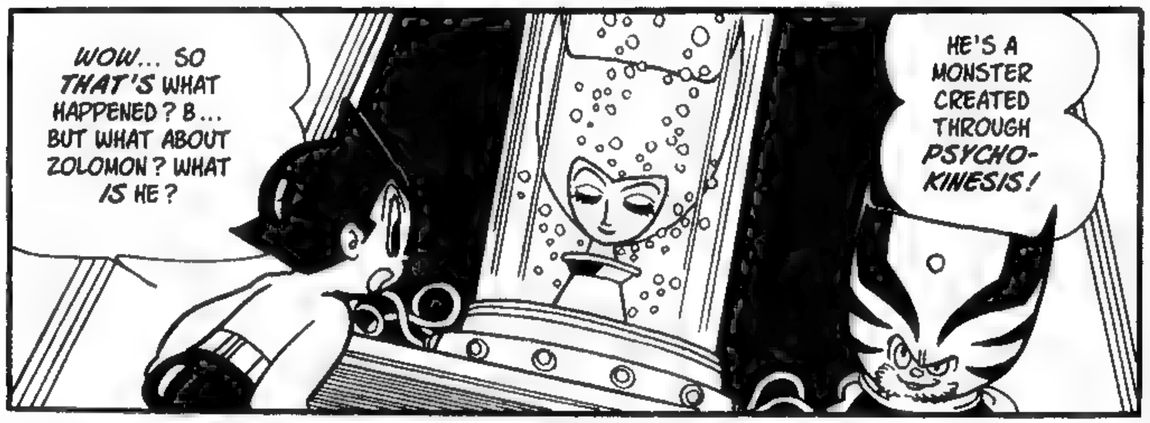

YES. IT WAS A MISTAKE ON OUR PART...

...EARTH WAS ALREADY INHABITED BY PEOPLE!

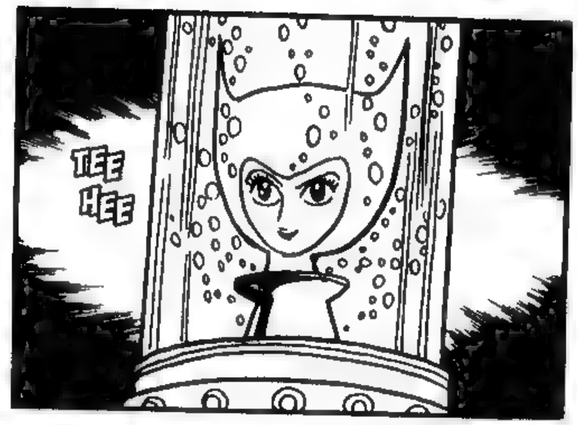

"WE WERE PICKED UP BY A HUMAN!"

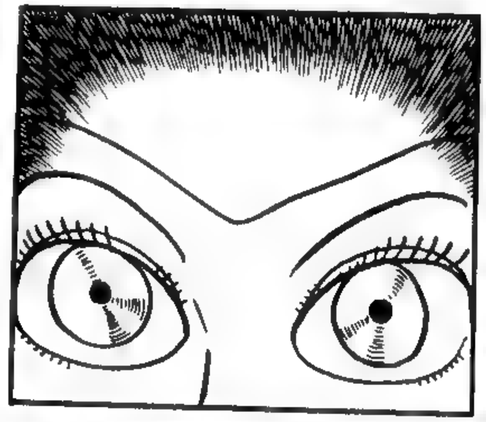
"THE MOMENT WE LANDED WE HAD CREATED ZOLOMON TO PROTECT OUR PLANET..."

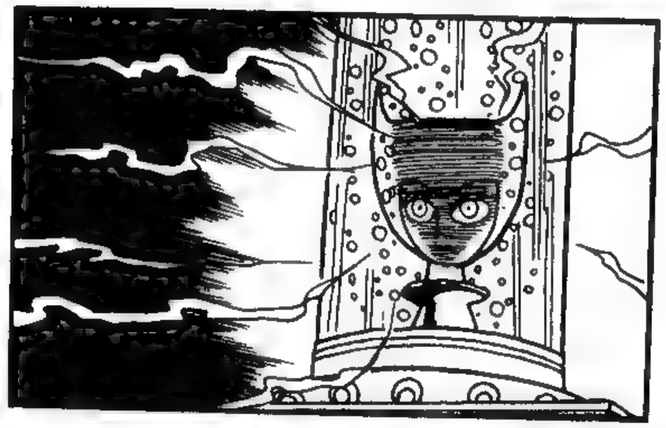
"BUT IT WAS TOO LATE..."
"BELLAROID FELL INTO HUMAN HANDS ALMOST IMMEDIATELY!"

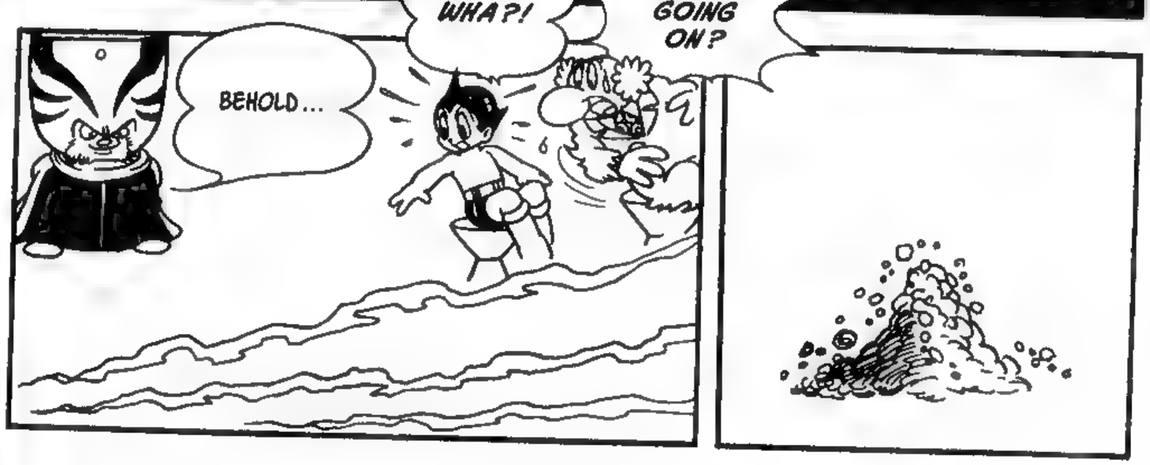

WOW... SO THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED? B... BUT WHAT ABOUT ZOLOMON? WHAT IS HE?
HE'S A MONSTER CREATED THROUGH PSYCHO-KINESIS!

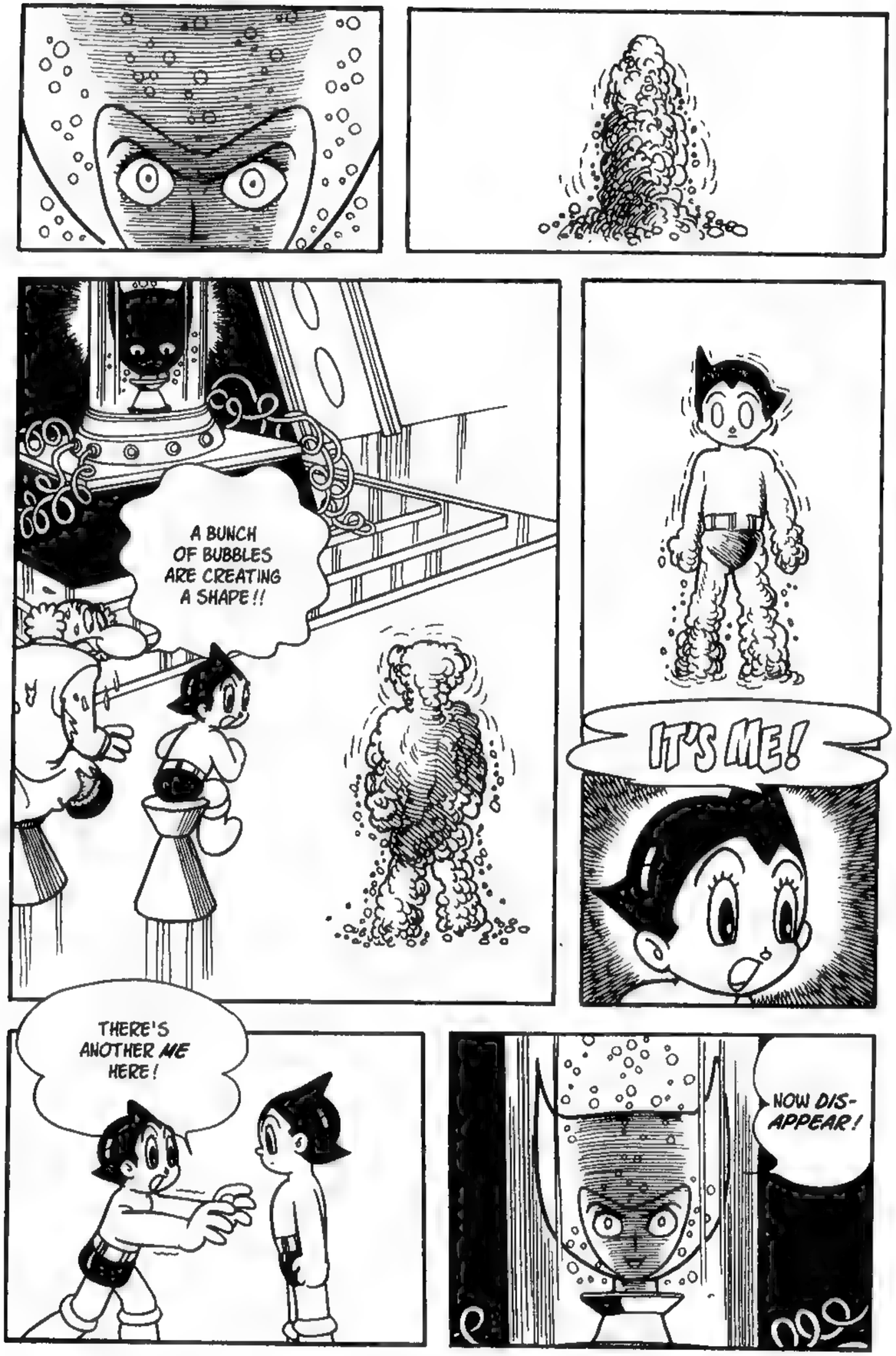
WHAT'S PSYCHOKINESIS, PROFESSOR ...?
IT'S A SPECIAL KIND OF PSYCHIC POWER, ASTRO...


HEE HEE






BEHOLD...
WHA?!
WHAT'S GOING ON?


A BUNCH OF BUBBLES ARE CREATING A SHAPE!!
IT'S ME!
THERE'S ANOTHER ME HERE!
NOW DIS-APPEAR!

FWISSSH
IT'S GONE!
WHAT THE--?!
WHAT'S HAPPEN-ING?!
WHAT'S GOING ON?!
CRASH
HA HA TEE HEE HEE! THAT'S HOW I MADE ZOLOMON! WHAT DO YOU THINK?
IMPRESSIVE, ISN'T IT?
HEE HEE!
MISTRESS SHEILA IS ALL-POWERFUL... SHE CAN MAKE ANYTHING WITH HER MIND...
I CALL THAT KIND OF POWER FRIGHT-ENING!

WE'VE GOTTA WATCH OUT FOR THIS WOMAN, ASTRO...

WHAT DO YOU THINK THEY WANT FROM US, PROFESSOR?

♀ IT'S POSSIBLE, ASTRO, THAT THE PEOPLE OF BELLAROID♀ ...

...♂WANT TO ENSLAVE EARTH!!♂

HA HA HA! REST ASSURRED, MY FRIENDS! WE HAVE NO SUCH EVIL INTENTIONS!

HOLY COW! SHE READ MY THOUGHTS!

OBSERVE OUR WORLD, AND YOU WILL UNDERSTAND!

I DID INDEED READ YOUR THOUGHTS... I KNOW EVERYTHING YOU ARE THINKING...

THEN WE'RE *REALLY* DOOMED...

SWARD, TAKE THEM TO THEIR QUARTERS...

YES, MISTRESS SHEILA...

DON'T BE AFRAID... THERE ARE *LOTS* OF OTHER EARTH PEOPLE HERE...

THERE ARE?!

DID YOU SAY *LOTS* OF THEM?!

OH, MY GOSH!

WOW... ARE THEY ALL FROM EARTH, TOO?

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE, SWARD?! YOU'VE MADE ALL THESE PEOPLE THE SIZE OF DUST SPECKS, TOO, HAVEN'T YOU?!

THIS IS UNFORGIVABLE! RESTORE THEM TO THEIR ORIGINAL FORM! *NOW*, I SAY!

SORRY, BUT WE CAN'T DO THAT... THEY HAVE TO STAY HERE!

... BECAUSE THEY KNOW THE SECRET OF THIS PLANET... OF THIS GEMSTONE!

IF YOU DON'T MIND, I'D LIKE YOU TO EXPLAIN THINGS SIMPLY TO THEM...

NO! THIS ISN'T *FAIR!*

SOMETHING WEIRD'S GOING ON HERE, ASTRO! SOMETHING REALLY, *REALLY* WEIRD! THEY'RE TRYING TO *USE* US!

ZOLOMON! AWAKE, ZOLOMON! AWAKE!

GOBO GLUB BLUB GOBO GLUB GLUB

GOBO BLUB GOBO GLUB GLUB GLUB

SKOOOSH

AT YOUR COMMAND, MISTRESS SHEILA!

THE TEARDROP OF SIRIUS IS HERE, ZOLOMON! COME QUICKLY!

AH... THE TEARDROP OF SIRIUS!

I HAVE IT, MISTRESS SHEILA! I HAVE IT!

ZOLOMON! ONCE YOU HAVE IT, YOU MUST IMMEDIATELY DEPART EARTH!

YES, MISTRESS...

TAKE IT TO A PLACE IN SPACE FAR, FAR REMOVED FROM EARTH!

WHAP

ASTRO BOY?!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?! YOU MUST LEAVE HERE! NOW!

I CAME TO SEE WHAT SCHEMES YOU'RE COOKING UP!

WHERE ARE YOU HAVING ZOLOMON TAKE BELLAROID?

IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!!

WELL, THAT WON'T DO, WILL IT?

CLACK

CLOMP

I KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON, SHEILA...

DON'T COME NEAR ME! *STAY AWAY!!*

YOU'RE A ROBOT, AREN'T YOU!?

WHA?!

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?! THAT'S *RIDICULOUS!*

WHY ARE YOU HIDING IT, SHEILA? I FIGURED IT OUT BECAUSE YOU'VE ONLY GOT A HEAD, 'N BECAUSE YOUR POWERS RELY ON *RADIO WAVES!*

WHY YOU IMPUDENT, LOWER-CLASS ROBOT!

KNOCK IT OFF, SHEILA! WE'RE *BOTH* ROBOTS!

I JUST WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING THIS FOR!

SILENCE!

LEAVE, OR I SHALL *DESTROY* YOU!

SORRY, BUT YOUR THREATS DON'T WORK ON ME! I'M A *ROBOT*, REMEMBER?

JUST TRY YOUR TRICKS ON ME!

YOU IMPUDENT ROBOT!

WONDER WHAT ALL THOSE TUBES ARE... MUST BE SOME KINDA CIRCUITS SUPPLYING SHEILA WITH ENERGY...

... I OUGHTA BE ABLE TO STOP SHEILA!

... SO IF I CUT THEM...

YIKES!

SMASH

DON'T YOU *DARE* TOUCH THOSE TUBES! SEE, LITTLE ROBOT!? I CAN READ YOUR MIND! *HA HA!*

SMASH

BASH

SMASH BASH SMASH BASH

WELL? HAD ENOUGH? *HEE HEE*... REMEMBER, THAT'S ONLY A TASTE OF MY SUPER POWERS...

KATHUD

.....
.....
.....

YOU *STILL* DON'T UNDERSTAND, *DO* YOU?!

TIME FOR A SPIN!

YIKES!

VROOOM

WITH AN ULTRA-FAST ROTATION, THE CENTRIFUGAL FORCE WILL MAKE YOU COME APART AT THE SEAMS!

SLAM

BASH

AIEEE!!

SMASH

FWP

RAT AT AT AT AT

RAT AT AT AT AT

NO! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?! WHY DIDN'T I SEE YOUR WEAPONS?!

NO! NO! MY... MY ENERGY FLOW HAS STOPPED! WITHOUT IT, I'LL *DIE!*

ARGGHH

...AT THAT VERY MOMENT, ZOLOMON, WHO HAD BEEN CREATED BY SHEILA'S POWERS, WAS ZOOMING INTO THE STRATOSPHERE, *BELLAROID* FIRMLY IN HAND!

VROOOSH

MISTRESS SHEILA! I HAVE LEFT EARTH AS ORDERED!

B-BUT SOMETHING IS *WRONG* WITH MY BODY...

SHEILA! DO NOT ERASE ME NOW! *NOT NOW!*

WAIT, SHEILA, WAIT!!

AFTER SHEILA WAS DISABLED BY ASTRO, HER POWERS CEASED TO HAVE EFFECT...

BELLAROID, WHICH ZOLOMON HAD TAKEN INTO ORBIT, WAS LEFT IN SPACE, SLOWLY REVOLVING AROUND EARTH LIKE A NEW MOON...

CRASH

SHEILA...

GLUB BLUB BLUB BLUB

I'LL TAKE YOU WITH ME...

YOU'LL BE MY *HOST-AGE !!*

HIGH PRIEST SWARD!!

WE'VE GOT AN EMERGENCY!

IT'S ABOUT MISTRESS SHEILA!

WHAT? YOU SAY SHE'S *GONE?!*

IT'S TRUE! AN' HER CAPSULE'S BEEN SMASHED!

B-BUT WHAT ABOUT BELLAROID?!

IF WE DON'T *DO* SOMETHING, WE'LL BE DRAGGED OUT OF ORBIT BY THE EARTH'S GRAVITY AND BURN UP AS WE ENTER THE ATMOSPHERE!

I FOUND THE PERSON WHO KIDNAPPED MISTRESS SHEILA, SIR!

WHERE? WHERE IS HE?

VOOSH

VOOOSH

VROOM

FWP

VROOOM

VROOM

ZAP ZAP ZAP ZAP

VROOM

KABOOOM

WHAT'S GOING ON?!

THAT'S *ASTRO BOY!*

ASTRO BOY! WHY DID YOU KIDNAP MISTRESS SHEILA?! WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE *DOING!?*

GIVE ME THE HEAD, ASTRO BOY!

NO!

NO?

WHY, YOU ROTTEN ROBOT!! HAVE YOU NO IDEA WHAT WE'LL DO TO PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU AND THE OTHER HUMANS?!!

DON'T YOU DARE LAY A FINGER ON THE PROFESSOR, SWARD!

IF YOU DO I'LL SMASH *SHEILA'S HEAD!!*

WH... WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?! ARE YOU *CRAZY?*

E-ENOUGH GAMES, ASTRO BOY! JUST GIVE ME THE *HEAD!* THE FATE OF OUR PLANET RESTS WITH *SHEILA!*

WELL, IF THAT'S THE CASE, TELL ME WHAT'S GOING ON, SWARD! I KNOW THERE'S SOME KIND OF CONSPIRACY HERE ON BELLAROID! WHAT IS IT?!

TH... THERE'S NO CONSPIRACY...

YOU'RE *LYING!*

WHY'D SHEILA HAVE ZOLOMON LEAVE EARTH WITH THE PLANET?!

.....
.....
.....

UNLESS YOU TELL ME, YOU DON'T GET SHEILA BACK!

VERY WELL, THEN...

WE DECIDED TO SETTLE IN THIS SOLAR SYSTEM... BUT WE KNEW WE COULDN'T SUDDENLY RESTORE BELLAROID TO ITS ORIGINAL SIZE...

"IF ANOTHER PLANET THE SAME SIZE HAD SUDDENLY MATERIALIZED NEXT TO EARTH..."

"...THE TWO PLANETS' GRAVITY WOULD CAUSE THEM TO CRASH INTO EACH OTHER!"

SO WE DECIDED TO DESTROY EARTH AND REPLACE IT WITH BELLAROID!!

YOU *WHAT*?! B-BUT THAT'S CRAZY!

YOU'D *DESTROY EARTH*?!

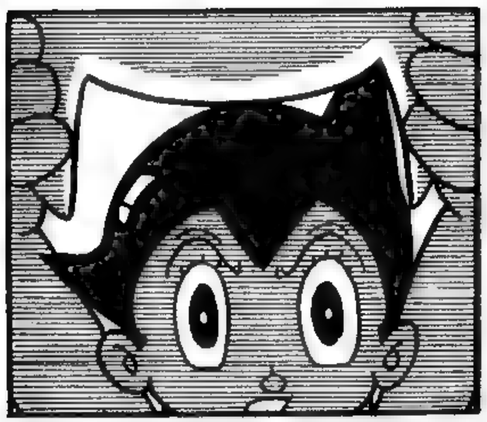
FLASH

"WE HAD DISCOVERED A FOUR-DIMENSIONAL PROJECTION SYSTEM, AND IN THE FOURTH DIMENSION SIZE, WEIGHT, AND EVEN TIME CAN BE CHANGED! MISTRESS SHEILA PROBABLY EXPLAINED THIS TO YOU..."

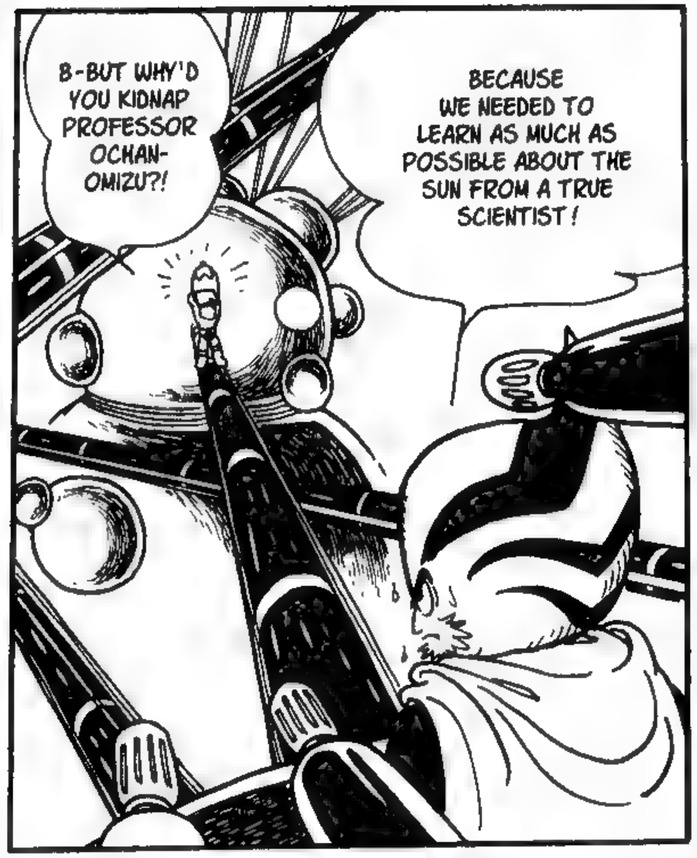
VROOOM

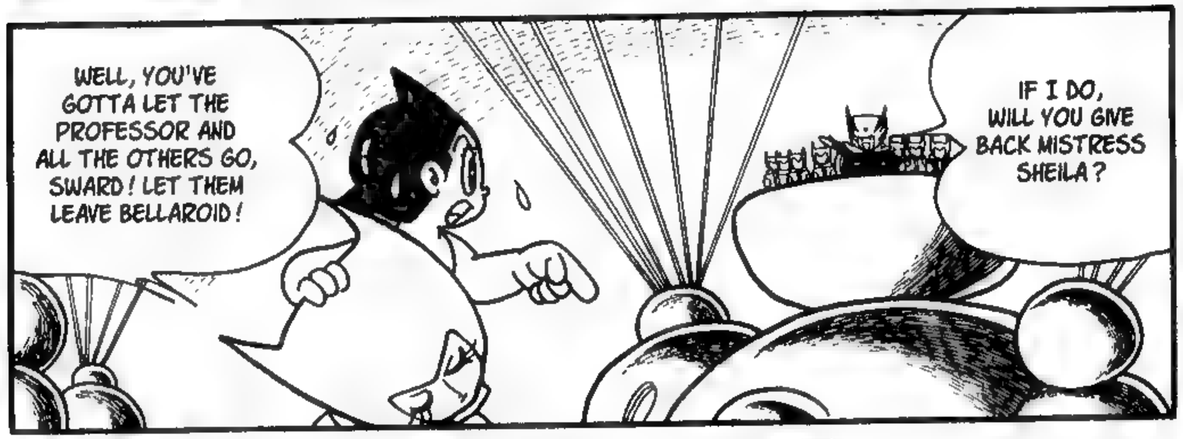
FIRST, WE WOULD USE FOURTH DIMENSION PROJECTION TO SHRINK EARTH DOWN TO THE SIZE OF A PEA, AND THEN SHOOT IT TO THE FAR ENDS OF THE UNIVERSE!

THE SAME INSTANT, WE'D RESTORE BELLAROID TO ITS ORIGINAL SIZE... AS LONG AS IT WAS NEARLY THE SAME SIZE AS EARTH, IT WOULD STAY IN THE SAME ORBIT AROUND THE SUN AS EARTH DID! AND BELLAROID WOULD BE *SAVED!*

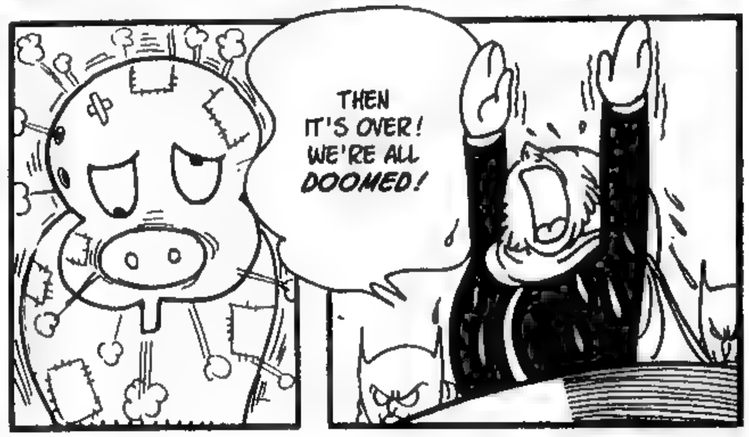


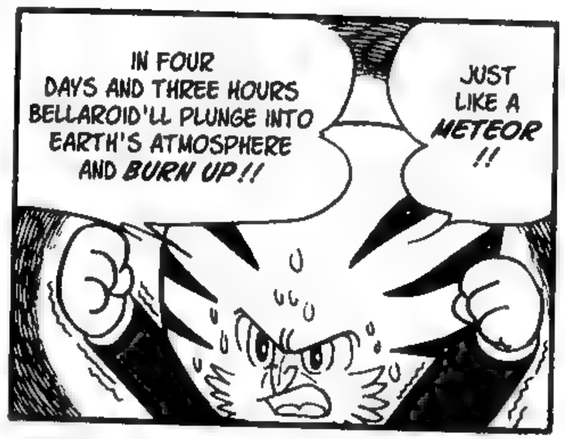
WE WERE PLANNING TO TURN BELLAROID INTO A SECOND EARTH...


B-BUT WHY'D YOU KIDNAP PROFESSOR OCHAN-OMIZU?!
BECAUSE WE NEEDED TO LEARN AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE ABOUT THE SUN FROM A TRUE SCIENTIST!


WELL, YOU'VE GOTTA LET THE PROFESSOR AND ALL THE OTHERS GO, SWARD! LET THEM LEAVE BELLAROID!
IF I DO, WILL YOU GIVE BACK MISTRESS SHEILA?

NO! YOU CAN'T HAVE HER!!


THEN IT'S OVER! WE'RE ALL DOOMED!


IN FOUR DAYS AND THREE HOURS BELLAROID'LL PLUNGE INTO EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE AND BURN UP!!
JUST LIKE A METEOR !!

WE'LL ALL DIE! AND SO WILL YOU, THE PROFESSOR, AND ALL THE OTHER HUMANS!

ONLY MISTRESS SHEILA CAN SAVE BELLAROID! YOU MUST GIVE HER BACK TO US! YOU MUST!!

I KNOW!

I'LL HAVE THE PROFESSOR *REBUILD* SHEILA! SHE CAN KEEP HER SUPER POWERS...

... BUT HE CAN MODIFY HER TO BE A ROBOT THAT LOVES EARTH AND IS A *FRIEND* OF HUMANS!

NO EARTH SCIENTIST COULD EVER *MODIFY* MISTRESS SHEILA!

EVEN TRYING'S A WASTE OF TIME!

NO, SWARD! I BET THE PROFESSOR CAN DO IT!

SUIT YOURSELF...

OKAY, FOLKS, LISTEN... I'M PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU, HEAD OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE. WE'RE BEING HELD CAPTIVE INSIDE A GEM KNOWN AS THE "TEARDROP OF SIRIUS", BUT THE GEM'S REALLY A *PLANET*, NAMED *BELLAROID!* I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE PEOPLE ON THIS PLANET ARE PLANNING TO DO TO US, BUT WE'LL HAVE TO WAIT PATIENTLY FOR A CHANCE TO ESCAPE...

Y-YOU MEAN WE MIGHT BE *KILLED?*

Y-YOU MEAN WE MIGHT BE FOREVER *STUCK* AT THIS SIZE?

WAIT PATIENTLY? I CAN'T STAND ANOTHER *MINUTE* OF THIS!

ME NEITHER! LET'S *RUN* FOR IT!!

I'M GETTING OUT OF HERE!

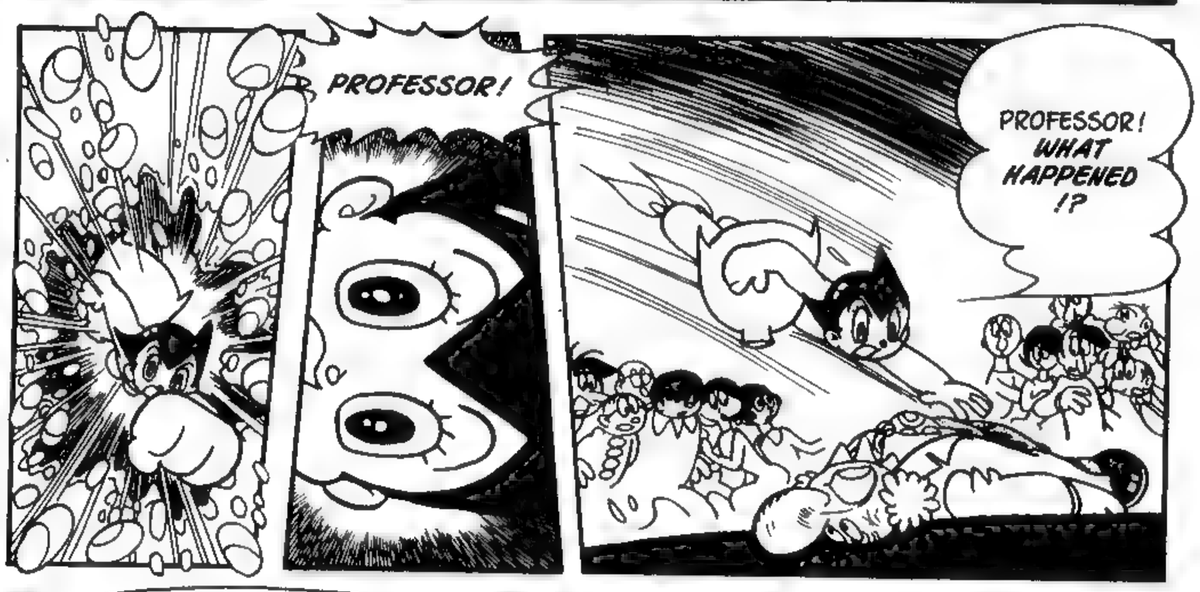
YEAH, WHY SHOULD WE LISTEN TO SOME OLD GEEZER?!

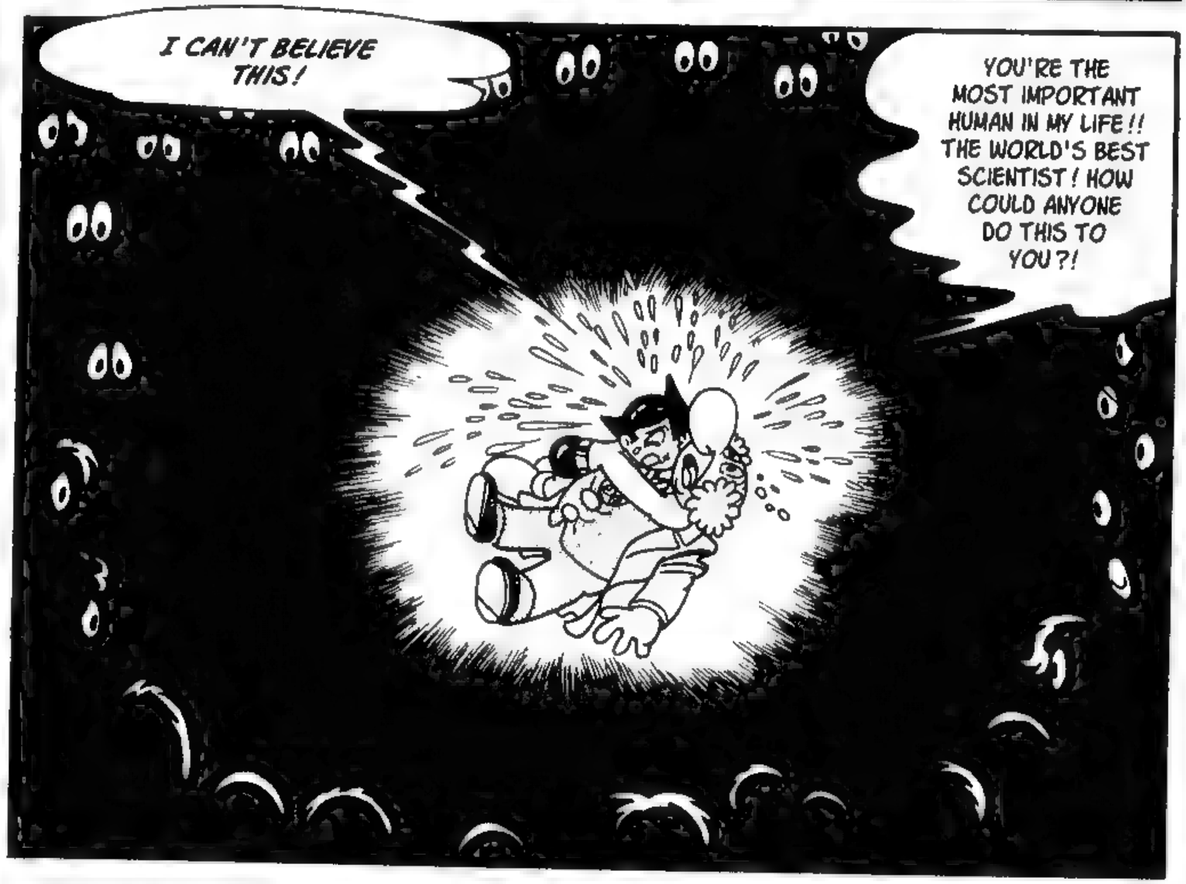
OUT OF THE WAY!

WAIT! YOU CAN ESCAPE FROM THIS ROOM, BUT HOW'RE YOU GONNA ESCAPE FROM THE *PLANET?*

I SAID OUT OF THE WAY!

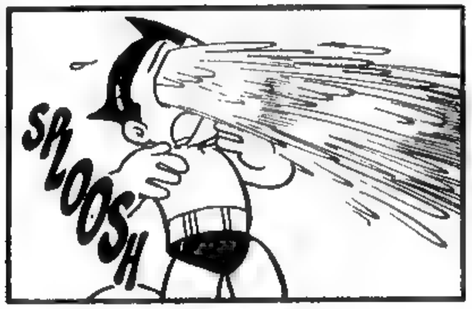
ASTRO! PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU IS DEAD!
WHAT ?!

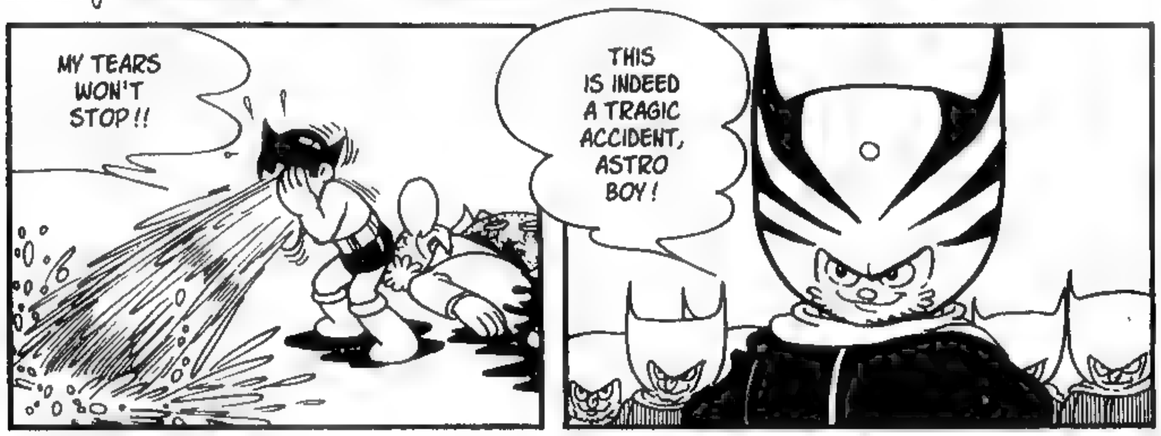

PROFESSOR!
PROFESSOR! WHAT HAPPENED !?

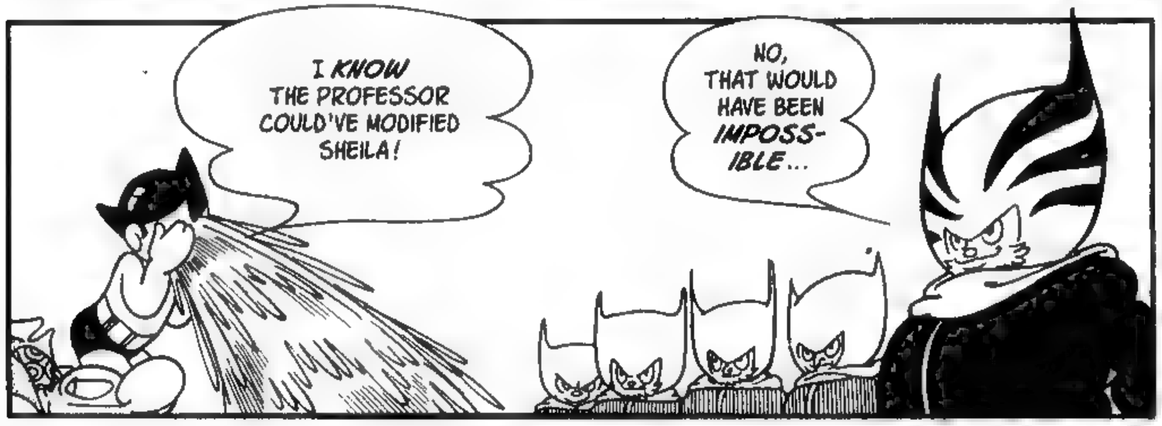

I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS!
YOU'RE THE MOST IMPORTANT HUMAN IN MY LIFE!! THE WORLD'S BEST SCIENTIST! HOW COULD ANYONE DO THIS TO YOU?!

SOB
SOB...

VOOOSH


SPLOOSH


MY TEARS WON'T STOP!!
THIS IS INDEED A TRAGIC ACCIDENT, ASTRO BOY!


I KNOW THE PROFESSOR COULD'VE MODIFIED SHEILA!
NO, THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN IMPOSS-IBLE...

NO... I KNOW HE COULD HAVE!

COULD NOT HAVE!

ALL THE ROBOTS ON BELLAROID ONLY ALLY THEMSELVES WITH THE ONES WHO MADE THEM! THEY CANNOT ALLY THEMSELVES WITH YOU EARTHLINGS!

IT'S TRUE OF SHEILA, TOO!

"ONLY ALLY WITH THE ONES WHO MADE THEM..."
SO THAT MEANS...

SO MISTRESS SHEILA IS OF NO USE TO YOU, ASTRO. YOU MUST GIVE HER BACK!

OKAY, I WILL, IN THREE DAYS!
IN THREE DAYS?!
ONE DAY... THREE DAYS... IT WON'T HELP YOU, ASTRO BOY! GIVE HER BACK NOW!

I'LL GIVE HER BACK IN THREE DAYS, BUT NOT A MINUTE SOONER!

WHY YOU...

STAY BACK, OR I'LL *SMASH* HER!

.....
.....
.....

GET OUT OF HERE! *NOW!*

IT'S NO USE, MEN... LET'S LEAVE FOR NOW...

KASLAM

OUR PLANET FACES *LIFE* OR *DEATH!*

PHEW

POOR PROFES-SOR...

I'LL JUST HAVE TO USE EVERY VOLT IN MY ELECTRO-BRAIN...

...AND MAKE SHEILA INTO A ROBOT WHO RESPECTS HUMANS!

YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN MODIFY HER, ASTRO BOY?

ACT-UALLY, NO...

NO? THEN WHAT'RE YOU DOING?

WELL, I MAY NOT BE THE PROFESSOR...

... BUT STILL...

...I BET I CAN TAKE SHEILA APART AND CREATE ANOTHER ROBOT JUST LIKE HER!

?

?

THEIR HIGH PRIEST SAID BELLAROID ROBOTS CAN ONLY ALLY THEMSELVES WITH THOSE WHO CREATED THEM!

SO THAT GAVE ME AN IDEA!

IF I MAKE *ANOTHER* SHEILA...

SHE'LL BE *OUR* ALLY!!

NOW I GET IT!

SO THAT'S IT!

YAY FOR ASTRO BOY!

ANY ROBOTICISTS IN THE CROWD?

I NEED SOMEONE TO HELP ME!

OKAY, EVERYBODY... LET'S TAKE HER APART. I'LL ANALYZE EACH PART WITH MY ELECTRO-BRAIN...

I'LL MAKE NEW, IDENTICAL PARTS, AND THEN ALL WE'LL HAVE TO DO IS ASSEMBLE THEM!

B-BUT WHAT'RE YOU GONNA MAKE THE PARTS OUT OF?

SMASH

WHAT THE--?

I JUST CHECKED, AND THEY'VE GOT TONS OF THIS STUFF!!

HOLY COW!

WAY TO GO, ASTRO! WE'LL DO IT!

DON'T FORGET, WE'VE ONLY GOT THREE DAYS!

WOW, THIS SURE IS COMPLICATED!

MAKE SURE YOU MEMORIZE THIS STRUCTURE, ASTRO!

CHICK

OKAY, ASTRO... EACH ONE OF THESE THINGS...

...IS APPARENTLY ONE OF HER BRAIN SPHERES... THINK CAN YOU ANALYZE THEM?

I'LL TRY...

I'LL PUT 'EM IN HERE ...

...AND MY COMPUTER'LL ANALYZE 'EM IN TEN SECONDS!

BZZZT

USING THE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY ASTRO, SOME OF THE HOSTAGES, WHO WERE FROM THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, SECRETLY ASSEMBLED AN EXACT REPLICA OF SHEILA...

3

WE... WE *DID* IT!

IT'S DAY THREE, ASTRO!! TIME TO GIVE BACK SHEILA!!

HERE, *CATCH!!*

FWAP

WE'RE ALL READY, SIR... LET'S GET HER IN THE ENERGY TUBE RIGHT AWAY...

≠GLUB≠
≠GLUB GLUB≠
≠GOBORI GLUB≠
≠GOBORI≠

O MISTRESS SHEILA! PLEASE COME BACK TO LIFE!!

GLUB GLUB GLUG GLUB GLUB

YOU'RE BACK!!

YOU'VE FINALLY COME TO AGAIN!

DO YOU RECOGNIZE ME, MISTRESS?

HIGH PRIEST SWARD...

THANK GOD! YOU SEEM TO BE ALL RIGHT!

FIRST OF ALL, I NEED YOU TO USE YOUR PSYCHIC POWERS AND TEACH THAT UPSTART ASTRO BOY AND THE EARTHLINGS WITH HIM A LESSON!!

NO!

WH- WHAT?!

I REFUSE! I SHALL *NOT* "TEACH ASTRO A LESSON"!!

AND I WON'T ALLOW YOU TO HURT HIM, EITHER!

B-B-BUT MISTRESS SHEILA!! WHAT HAPPENED?! ASTRO IS YOUR *ENEMY!* THE ENEMY OF *ALL BELLA-ROID!*

NO! HE IS OUR *FRIEND!!*

MISTRESS SHEILA'S LOST HER MIND!

AND ASTRO MUST BE BEHIND THIS!

PULL THE PLUG ON HER, MEN!

STOP!

THUD CRASH

ASTRO!

YOU OKAY, SHEILA?

DON'T WORRY, ASTRO! I'M FINE!

THAT BLASTED ROBOT!!

HIGH PRIEST SWARD! I COMMAND YOU TO BRING PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU BACK TO LIFE!

WHAT?!

HURRY, SWARD! THERE'S NO TIME TO LOSE!

GOSH, SHEILA, IS THAT REALLY POSSIBLE?!

WITH BELLAROID'S MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY IT'S EASY, ASTRO!

GRR...

DO AS I SAY, SWARD, OR BELLAROID WILL BURN UP IN THE ATMOSPHERE!

Y-Y-YES MA'AM...

BZZZZZZZ

HUMMMMMMM

BZZZT

THAT CAN'T BE THE *REAL* MISTRESS SHEILA!

THEY MUST'VE MADE A *COPY* OF HER!

THAT MEANS THE REAL ONE'S GOTTA BE IN THE ROOM WITH THE HUMANS! GO FIND HER... I'LL COVER FOR YOU HERE!

GLUB GLUBBLE GLUB GLUB

GLUB GLUB GLUB GLUB

=ARGH=
...

=UNGH=
...

WE'RE DONE...

AAHACKA HACK!

PROFESSOR!!

WAAAH!

PROFESSOR! YOU'VE COME BACK TO LIFE!

ASTRO!

PROFESSOR! YOU'RE OKAY!

THEY FIXED YOU JUST LIKE YOU'D FIX A ROBOT! THERE'S NOT A SCAR ON YOU!

IT'S A MIRACLE, ISN'T IT?! THE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION BACK HOME'LL NEVER BELIEVE THIS!!

HIGH PRIEST, SIR... YOU WERE RIGHT! I FOUND MISTRESS SHEILA'S REAL HEAD!

GOOD WORK!!

BLASTED FAKE SHEILA...

I'LL SHOW HER A THING OR TWO!

WHA?! WHERE'S SWARD?

WELL, WELL, ASTRO BOY! YOU HAD A LOT OF NERVE TO MAKE A REPLICA OF ME! BUT NOW IT'S YOUR TURN TO DIE!!

OH MY GOSH!!

WHA?! *ANOTHER* SHEILA!?

KERBAM

HEE HEE HEE...

SHE'S USING HER PSYCHIC POWER!

Zzzzz-z-z

LEAVE IT TO ME, ASTRO. I'LL TAKE CARE OF HER!

WHY, YOU *FAKE!!* JUST *TRY!*

TAKE THIS!

Zzzz Zzz BBBBB GGGGG

WHY YOU...

GRR...

SHEILA! USE YOUR POWER TO LAUNCH ME OVER THERE!

VOOM

ZIP

SMASH

IT WORKED!

THIS IS NOT RIGHT...

ZOLOMON! AWAKEN, ZOLOMON!

MISTRESS SHEILA!!

ZOLOMON! RETURN BELLAROID TO A SAFE PLACE ON EARTH!

YES, MISTRESS!

HEY, EVERYBODY! BELLAROID'S LANDED BACK ON EARTH AGAIN! WE CAN GO *HOME!*

AND THE PROFES-SOR'S *ALIVE!*

YOU SURE YOU'RE NOT ON THE WRONG PAGE?

YAY! YAY!

FOLLOW ME, FOLKS! I'LL LEAD THE WAY OUTSIDE!

ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL, ASTRO...

GOSH, SHEILA... DO YOU THINK YOU CAN LIVE ON EARTH?

NO, ASTRO...

I MUST STAY HERE ON BELLAROID. IF I DON'T, MY PLANET WILL BE DESTROYED...

B...BUT WHAT'LL YOU DO?

FOR TENS OF THOUSANDS OF YEARS, THERE'S BEEN A SMALL ASTEROID FIELD BETWEEN MARS AND JUPITER... WE CAN LIVE AMONG THE ASTEROIDS...

GOODBYE, THEN, SHEILA...

WHEN YOU LEAVE YOU WILL ENTER A STORM IN A WRINKLE OF THE FOURTH DIMENSION... YOU MUST GO THROUGH IT...

BE CAREFUL, ASTRO!

WE'LL BE ON BELLAROID'S SURFACE SOON...

ROAR ROAR

THE STORM ON THE SURFACE IS A WRINKLE IN THE FOURTH DIMENSION, EVERYBODY!

ONCE WE GET THROUGH IT, WE'LL RETURN TO OUR *NORMAL SIZE!!*

I'LL CARRY EVERY-BODY!

WOW! LOOK ASTRO! WE'RE GETTING BIGGER!

WE'RE RETURNING TO NORMAL ...

HOORAY HOORAY

WE'RE BACK TO REGULAR SIZE! YAYY!!

YAY

HERE'S THE LAST PERSON ...

THANK YOU, ZOLOMON!

I MUST LEAVE YOU NOW, ASTRO!

ROAR

THANK YOU, ZOLOMON! GIVE OUR GREETINGS TO SHEILA!

CLOUDS OF ASTEROIDS TRAVEL THROUGH THE VASTNESS OF THE UNIVERSE, LIKE SCATTERED, SILVER GRAINS OF SAND... AND SOME DAY IN THE DISTANT FUTURE, SPACE TRAVELERS WILL SURELY FIND A BEAUTIFUL AND TINY, GEM-LIKE PLANET AMONG THEM. BUT THEY WILL PROBABLY NEVER REALIZE IT IS BELLAROID, RULED BY A MYSTERIOUS QUEEN NAMED SHEILA...

SHOOTOUT IN THE ALPS

First appeared in the January 1956 supplement of *Shonen* magazine.

I HARDLY EVER GET SICK...

...BUT THIS *FLU'S* REALLY KILLING ME...

GOSH, MR. TEZUKA, YOU'RE ONLY HUMAN! ALL HUMANS GET SICK ONCE IN A WHILE.

I HATE THIS...

...BUT I *WILL* FINISH THE NEXT ASTRO EPISODE! *HONEST!* IF I DIE, MY *GHOST* WILL DRAW IT!!

NOW, NOW, SIR... AS YOUR *EDITOR*, I DON'T WANT YOU TO *OVERDO* IT... WE'LL GET SOMEONE TO STAND IN FOR YOU THIS MONTH...

WELL... IF THAT'S THE CASE, IT'S GOTTA BE SOMEONE WHO DRAWS LIKE ME...

...I KNOW... MAYBE *JIRO KUWATA*...

ACTUALLY, WE ALREADY HAD KUWATA DRAW SOME OF THE PAGES... HIS STYLE'S TOTALLY DIFFERENT NOW, THOUGH...

YOU *WHAT* P!!

SO THAT'S HOW THE LATTER PART OF "SHOOT-OUT IN THE ALPS" CAME TO BE WRITTEN BY JIRO KUWATA!

SO WE WERE DRAWN BY A *STAND-IN!*

BUT WHEN THE STORY WAS COMPILED INTO A PAPERBACK VOLUME, TEZUKA WENT BACK AND REDREW MOST OF THE PAGES, SO IT COMES OUT THE SAME!

I S'POSE THE MAIN DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HUMANS AND ROBOTS LIKE ME IS THAT ROBOTS AREN'T SO SENSITIVE, OR EMOTIVE...

IT'S 'CUZ NO MATTER HOW WELL-MADE OUR ELECTRO-BRAINS ARE, HUMAN BRAIN CELLS ARE ALWAYS MORE COMPLEX...

SO ROBOTS CAN NEVER COMPARE WITH HUMANS...

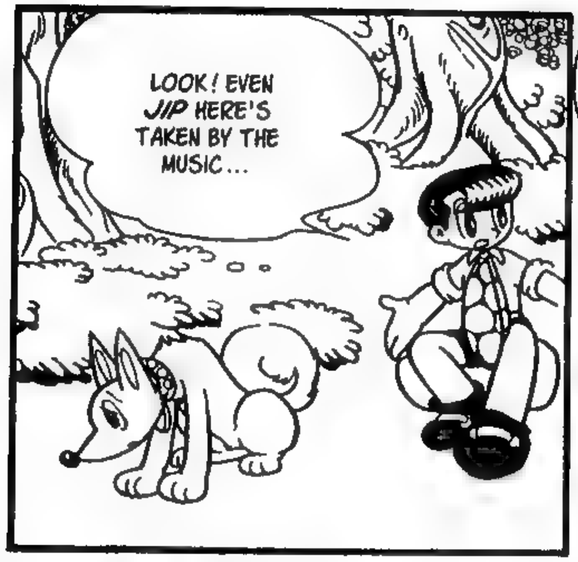
SOMETIMES I GET REALLY BUMMED OUT BY IT...

WAY TO GO, KEN! SOUND'S GREAT!

ZZZZ

GOSH, WHAT *BEAUTIFUL* MUSIC!

THIS EPISODE'S ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED LAST SUMMER...


LOOK! EVEN JIP HERE'S TAKEN BY THE MUSIC...

HEY, ASTRO... WHAT'S THE MATTER?

ASTRO? WHAT'S WRONG?

ASTRO, COME BACK!

ARE YOU CRYING, ASTRO? DID WE DO SOMETHING WRONG?
NO, KEN... IT'S JUST THAT I DON'T UNDERSTAND...

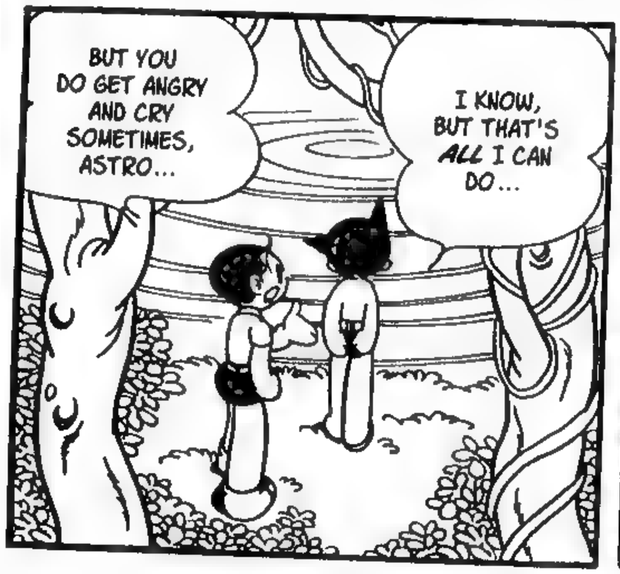
EVEN DOGS UNDERSTAND MUSIC...

BUT I DON'T GET IT AT ALL!

I JUST HEAR MUSIC AS A BUNCH OF NOTES IN A SPECIAL ORDER...

SOME HUMANS HATE MUSIC, TOO, ASTRO...
I KNOW, BUT IT'S NOT JUST THAT...

YOU KNOW, KEN, I'VE NEVER ONCE LOOKED AT A PAINTING OR LISTENED TO MUSIC AND THOUGHT, "WOW!"


BUT YOU DO GET ANGRY AND CRY SOMETIMES, ASTRO...
I KNOW, BUT THAT'S ALL I CAN DO...

HUMANS OFTEN FEEL LIKE SOMETHING'S REALLY BEAUTIFUL OR GREAT, BUT I ALMOST NEVER DO...

WHAT?! YOU WANT A HUMAN-LIKE HEART?

BUT THAT'S RIDICULOUS, ASTRO!

YOU'RE DESIGNED TO SERVE HUMANS, THAT'S ALL! YOU CAN'T HAVE A HUMAN HEART!

BUT, PROFESSOR! I JUST WANNA BE ABLE TO SEE BEAUTIFUL THINGS AS THEY ARE-- BEAUTIFUL!

I WON'T ALLOW IT!

FORGET IT, ASTRO...

YOU REALLY WANT TO KNOW WHY I'M SO AGAINST THE IDEA?

LOOK AT THIS, ASTRO! IT'S AN *ARTIFICIAL HEART*. IF I IMPLANT IT IN YOU, YOU'LL FEEL LIKE HUMANS DO...

HOWEVER... AND IT'S A BIG "*HOWEVER*"...

IT MEANS YOU'LL NOT ONLY SENSE BEAUTY, BUT YOU'LL EXPERIENCE *FEAR* AND *TERROR*, TOO!!

YOU DON'T MIND BECOMING A SCAREDY-CAT ASTRO BOY?

I... I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE SAYING, PROFES-SOR...

B-BUT COULDN'T YOU IMPLANT IT IN ME, JUST ONCE...?

THEN IF YOU THINK IT'S BAD FOR ME, YOU COULD TAKE IT OUT!

YOU SURE ARE STUBBORN, ASTRO...

PLEASE, PROFES-SOR, *PLEASE* ...

THANKS, PROFESSOR! I APPRECIATE IT!

DON'T BLAME ME LATER, OKAY?

BZZZT

ZAAT

BZZZT

HUMMM

TICKLE TICKLE

FINALLY! DONE!

NOW TO TEST IT OUT!

KAPOW

YIKES!

YAY! IT WORKED!

YOU SCARED ME, PROFESSOR!

DON'T GO 'ROUND TELLING EVERYBODY, ASTRO! OKAY?

DON'T WORRY, I WON'T...

WOW... THE WHOLE WORLD SEEMS DIFFERENT! SO THIS IS HOW HUMANS FEEL!

THESE FLOWERS ARE SO BEAUTIFUL!

WHAT A SIGHT!

WHOOPS!

WOW, THAT WAS SCARY...

SCARY P!

SO *THIS* IS WHAT HUMANS FEEL WHEN THEY'RE *SCARED!!*

DON'T THINK I LIKE BEING SCARED...

HEY, YOU SEE ASTRO BOY?

YUP... HE LOOKED *SCARED*...

MUST BE SOMETHING *WRONG* WITH HIM! MAYBE THIS IS OUR CHANCE!

YEAH... HE'S ALWAYS BEEN GETTING IN OUR WAY!

BUT DON'T FORGET, BOSS... ASTRO'S GOT 100,000 HORSEPOWER!

WE'VE GOTTA FIND SOMETHING HE'S AFRAID OF...

N'YOW YER TALKIN'!

JUST WAIT, ASTRO BOY!!

♫ SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT, ALL IS CALM, ALL IS BRIGHT... 'ROUND YON VIRGIN MOTHER AND CHILD... ♫

GOSH, SURE IS A *PRETTY TUNE*...

BONG

BONG

BONG

THANKS TO MY NEW IMPLANT, CHRISTMAS CAROLS SURE SOUND GOOD THIS YEAR...

YOU POOR THING... HERE, TAKE MY COAT...

B-BUT DON'T YOU NEED IT, YOUNG MAN?

ME? DON'T WORRY, I'M A *ROBOT!*

BONG

BONG

I'M HOME, MOM! MERRY CHRISTMAS!

MOM! DAD! WHERE ARE YOU?

WHA?!

BONG BONG BONG

MOTHERRR!!!

Dear Astro Boy,

We took your parents. If you want them back, you've got to help us. Meet us at the entrance to Ueno Park on New Year's Eve!

JINGLE BELLS JINGLE BELLS, JINGLE ALL THE WAY...

ZAMX

YAY! HA HA HA!

DAAAD!!

THIS IS *SERIOUS!*

I'LL SEARCH ALL JAPAN IF I HAVE TO!

I'LL FIND THEM, NO MATTER WHERE THEY'VE BEEN TAKEN!

MAYBE WE DID SEE 'EM, HUH... ?

NAW, DON' THING WE SAW NOTHIN'...

NAGOYA

MOM... DAD...

WHERE'D THEY TAKE YOU?

ONLY SHIKOKU AND KYUSHU ISLANDS LEFT TO SEARCH...

CAN'T AFFORD TO GIVE UP NOW!

DECEMBER 29TH

OSAKA STATION

SEEN ANYONE LIKE THIS?

NO WAY, JOSE...

VISIT THE SPACE FAIR! 1/1 TO 1/31

SORRY TA BOTHER YOU!

106...

BONG

107...

BONG

108...

BONG...

HEH HEH HEH... SO THE TEMPLE BELLS'VE FINALLY RUNG IN THE NEW YEAR!

HEH HEH...

BEEN SEARCHING ALL OVER JAPAN, HAVEN'T YOU...?

HEH HEH HEH... IT'S *NO USE*, YOU KNOW...

HEH HEH

YER FOLKS'RE IN A PLACE WHERE YOU'LL *NEVER* FIND 'EM!

WHERE ?! *TELL ME!!*

HEE HEE

NOW WAIT A MINUTE! LAY A HAND ON ME, PAL, AN' YOU'LL NEVER SEE YER PARENTS AGAIN!

SO HERE'S THE DEAL, KID... HELP US OUT WITH OUR WORK, OR YER FOLKS'LL BE KILLED! HOW ABOUT IT?

WHY YOU... YOU EXPECT *ME* TO HELP *BAD GUYS?!*

SURE. IF NOT, YER FOLKS'LL BE DEAD TOMORROW MORNING...

WELL, IF YOU'RE GONNA KILL THEM...

...YOU'LL HAVE TO KILL *ME*, TOO!

COME TO THE TOP OF MT. AKAISHI, IN JAPAN'S SOUTHERN ALPS, BY 9:00 TOMORROW MORNING!

DON'T GO TO MT. AKAISHI, ASTRO! THOSE GANGSTERS'RE WAITING FOR YOU, AND THEY'LL SMASH YOU!

I'M WARNING YOU, ASTRO... DON'T GO TO MT. AKAISHI...

...IF YOU WANT TO SURVIVE!

I DON'T CARE! I'M *GOING!*

I'LL TAKE MY CHANCES!!

HELLO? *UM*, IS PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU THERE?

WHAT? ASTRO? *UM*, YEAH... OKAY... RIGHT AWAY...

ASTRO'S IN TROUBLE, GUYS! WE'VE GOTTA GO AFTER HIM!

WHA? WELL, WHERE IS HE? *I'LL* GO!

LISTEN, IF WE *ALL* GO WE'LL BE TOO CONSPICUOUS! JUST TWO OF US OUGHTA GO!

OKAY, THEN I SAY WE OUGHTA HAVE A MIKAN ORANGE-EATING CONTEST! THE WINNER GETS TA GO!

=HMPH=...

THE MORE THE MERRIER, GUYS! NO WAY *I* C'N LOSE!

=BURP= !

SO WHERE'D THE PROFESSOR SAY ASTRO'S HEADED, KEN?

I'LL TELL YOU LATER, SHIB... HE'S GOT A HEAD START, SO WE'VE GOTTA *HURRY*...

WE'RE REALLY GOING BY *SKIS?*

HEY, I *LIKE* THIS!

THESE'RE *AIR SKIS*, SHIB!

TAKES A LITTLE GETTING USED TO THESE THINGS! FOLLOW ME AND MAKE SURE YOU DON'T *CRASH!*

LOOK! THAT'S *ASTRO* OVER THERE!

YOU'RE RIGHT!

WOW... WE'RE ALREADY IN THE JAPAN ALPS!

RIGHT... THE SOUTHERN ALPS. I'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE...

THERE HE IS! TIME TO LAND!

WONDER WHERE HE'S GOING?

LOOK! HE'S GOING IN THAT *SKI LODGE*...

HMM. WHAT'S HE DOING WITH ALL THOSE MASKED MEN?

WELL, WELL... SO HOW WAS YOUR TRIP HER--YOUR *LAST EVER!?*

I WANNA KNOW WHERE MY MOM AND DAD ARE!

BEFORE WE TELL YOU, ASTRO BOY, YOU HAVE TO TAKE A TEST...

SPRONG

YIKES!

HMPH! NO DOUBT ABOUT IT!

YOU'RE JUST AS MUCH OF A SCAREDY-CAT AS HUMANS ARE...

FROM NOW ON, WHENEVER YOU SEE THAT THING, YOU'LL BE SO SCARED YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO DO *ANYTHING!*

OKAY, GUYS! LET'S TAKE HIM TO THE BOSS'S PLACE.

LOOKS LIKE EVERYONE'S LEAVING 'CEPT FOR TWO GUARDS...

LET'S *GET* 'EM!

SHIBU! *STOP!!*

DON'T JUMP THE GUN, SHIB!

WHAT'S THAT, KEN?

SHHH... QUIET...

WE'RE GONNA CONTACT THE PROFESSOR...

BUT HOW?

DON'T TELL ANYONE, BUT THESE AIR SKIS ARE ALSO *WIRELESS PHONES!* HE SECRETLY TAUGHT ME TO USE 'EM BEFORE...

HELLO... CAN YOU HEAR ME, PROFESSOR? ASTRO'S NEARBY...

WHAT? IN AN EMERGENCY WE SHOULD *SHOOT HIS ADAM'S APPLE WITH A PISTOL?*

B...BUT *WHY,* PROFESSOR?

ASTRO'S GOT AN ARTIFICIAL HEART IMPLANTED IN HIM, KEN!

AS LONG AS IT'S IN HIM, HE'LL GET SCARED LIKE REGULAR HUMANS!

THINK WHAT'LL HAPPEN IF HE HAS TO FIGHT WITH SOME BAD GUYS...

...SO I WANT YOU TO SHOOT IT AND *DESTROY* IT!

B-BUT WHERE'S THE *PISTOL?*

MAYBE WE CAN *STEAL* ONE FROM THEM, KEN!

IT'S *NOW* OR *NEVER!!*

WHA P!

TAKE THIS!

UNGH!

AND THIS!!

KAPOW

JUST TRY, BIG GUY!

KERPOW

BONK

BAM

WELL, THEY'RE BOTH OUT COLD NOW...

SHIB! I GOT A PISTOL!

I'LL SHOOT ASTRO...

NO, SHIB... I NEED YOU FOR SOME-THING ELSE...

GOT IT?

MOM! DAD!!

IT'S ME!!

MY BABY!

ASTRO!!

DEAR ASTRO!!

BZZ-ZAP

FSSSSHHH

BRRR...
ULP...

DON'T WORRY ABOUT US, ASTRO!

JUST *SMASH* THIS GUY! WHAT'RE YOU *WAITING* FOR?!

ER...
ULP...

HEH HEH HEH...

SCARED, ASTRO? CAN'T DO A THING, CAN YOU?!

OKAY, GUYS! TIME TO FINISH OFF ASTRO BOY *ONCE AND FOR ALL!!*

HAALP!

STOP!

WHAT THE --P!

BANG

GET THE KID!!

BLAM

ASTRO!!

KA ZAINGG..

GRR...

UH OH! RUN FOR IT!

TAKE THIS!!

KA BLOOSH

TAKE THIS, TOO!

IT'S PAYBACK TIME!

HOW'S THAT FEEL?

LET'S SCRAM! WE CAN'T KEEP UP WITH HIM!

I'LL SECOND THAT!

READY, SHIB-UGAKI?!

KABAM

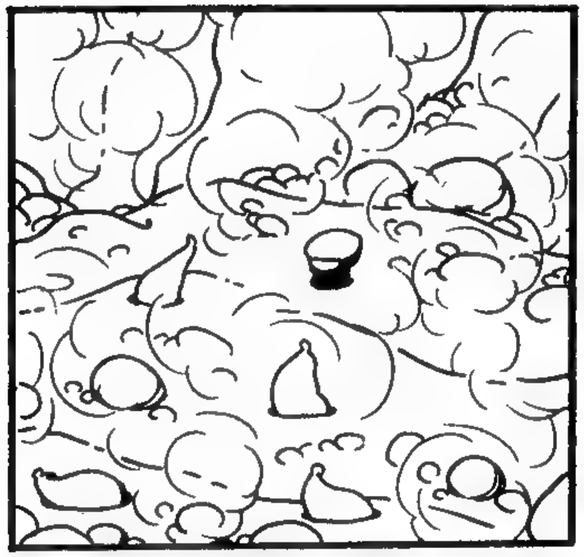
READY, KEN!

RUMBLE RUMBLE

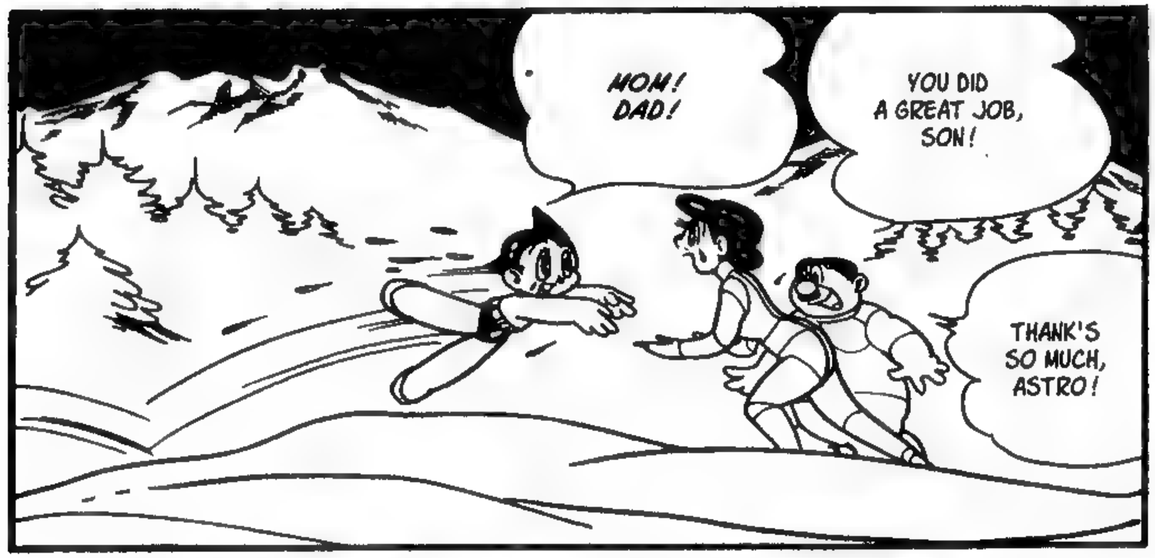
RUMBLE RUMBLE

HAALP!

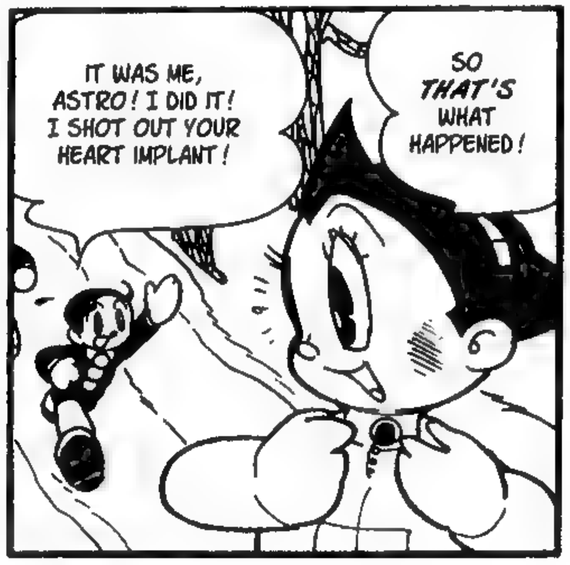
WE'RE DOOMED!!

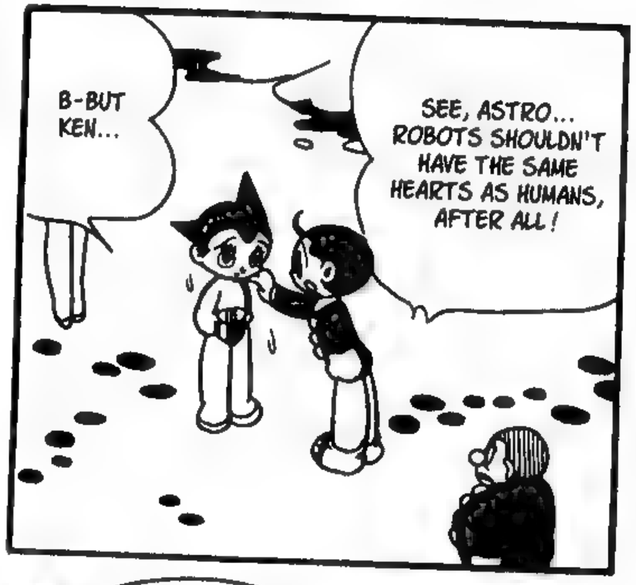


YAY! WE DID IT!
HAPPY NEW YEAR, KEN!


MOM! DAD!
YOU DID A GREAT JOB, SON!
THANK'S SO MUCH, ASTRO!

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR THROAT, THOUGH?


IT WAS ME, ASTRO! I DID IT! I SHOT OUT YOUR HEART IMPLANT!
SO THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED!


B-BUT KEN...
SEE, ASTRO... ROBOTS SHOULDN'T HAVE THE SAME HEARTS AS HUMANS, AFTER ALL!

I FINALLY GET IT, KEN...

FROM NOW ON, I'M GONNA STOP BEING ENVIOUS OF HUMANS, AND LIVE LIKE A REAL ROBOT!

THE LYING ROBOT

First appeared the September 1964 edition of *Tetsuwan Atom Fan Club*.

EMERGENCY! EMERGENCY! AN EARTHQUAKE'S GONNA STRIKE! EVERYBODY TAKE COVER!

EEEEK!

HAALP! HAALP!

HEAD FOR THE SUBWAY! WE'LL BE SAFE THERE!

SUBWAYS SHAKE IN EARTHQUAKES, TOO, STUPID! THIS ISN'T AN AIR RAID!

SO WHEN'S IT GONNA START SHAKING?

HMM... NOT SURE MYSELF...

NO SHAKIN' GOIN' ALL AT ALL HERE!

WHO'S SPREADING FALSE ALARMS?!!

LET'S GET 'IM!

THAT'S HIM THERE! THAT KID!

YOU LITTLE LIAR!!

WHADDAYOU MEAN, LYING LIKE THAT, KID?

B-BUT I'M NOT LYING!

HEY! YOU'RE A ROBOT, AREN'T YOU?!

NO! I'M A HUMAN!

WHO'RE YOU KIDDING?! WE KNOW YOU'RE A ROBOT!

NO, I'M NOT!

HALT!!

SO TELL US, KID... WHO MADE YOU?

COLOMBO.

ENOUGH PRATTLE, KID! TELL US, WHO MADE YOU?!

TATSUHIKO YAMAGAMI, THE MANGA ARTIST!

YOU'VE GOTTA TAKE OVER, ASTRO. HE'S MAKING A FOOL OUT OF ME!

UH OH... HE ESCAPED!

BLASTED *TRICKSTER!*

WHAT?! YOU SAY SOMEONE JUST COMMITTED *SUICIDE?* BY JUMPING OFF *TOKYO TOWER?!* WE'LL BE THERE RIGHT AWAY!

WHEEE WHEEE

WHERE IS HE?! THERE'S NO ONE HERE!!

WHO MADE THAT CALL, ANYWAY?

THERE! THERE HE IS!

WELL, I'LL BE! IT'S *HIM!!*

I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS! BRING HIM IN, ASTRO!

THIS KID GIVES *ROBOTS* A BAD NAME!

FINALLY, I CATCH UP WITH YOU!

VROOM

COME WITH ME! AND TELL ME WHERE YOU LIVE!

I DON'T HAVE A HOME!

UH OH!

RATATAT

FWWIP

VROOM

HE'S SPROUTED THAT *PROPELLOR* AGAIN!

STOP!!

VROOOOM

WHAT THE--?!

HE ENTERED THIS HOUSE...

WHO'RE YOU?!

I'M HERE FOR THAT BOY ROBOT! HE'S CAUSING NOTHING BUT *TROUBLE!*

AH, BUT IT SEEMS YOU'RE A ROBOT, TOO, AREN'T YOU? I CAN UNDERSTAND WHY YOU MIGHT BE UPSET...

I'M THE MAN WHO *MADE* THIS BOY, AFTER ALL...

REALLY?

BUT WHY'D YOU MAKE A ROBOT THAT *LIES*?

IT'S A LONG STORY, BUT I CAN EXPLAIN EVERYTHING...

"MY MOTHER'S SICK, AND I MADE HIM TO HELP NURSE HER..."

"SHE'S GOT CANCER, AND ONLY HAS A SHORT TIME TO LIVE..."

HOW AM I DOING? AM I GETTING BETTER?

OF COURSE, ROBOTS DON'T NORMALLY LIE...

YOU'LL BE DEAD SOON, MADAM...

EEEK!

CAN YOU IMAGINE HOW MY MOTHER WOULD FEEL?

SO I MADE HIM TO ALWAYS SAY THE *OPPOSITE*.

YOU LOOK REALLY GREAT TODAY... YOU'LL BE CURED SOON...

REALLY ?

BUT I SHOULD NEVER HAVE MADE A ROBOT THAT LIES... IT'S JUST THAT I DIDN'T WANT MY MOTHER TO KNOW THE TRUTH...

SO *THAT'S* WHAT HAPPENED...

BUT I STILL THINK LYING'S BAD...

ASTRO BOY'S RIGHT...

I'VE DECIDED TO MODIFY YOU! GET READY!

YESSIR...

THE EQUIPMENT'S ALL READY, RIGHT...?

YES-SIR...

HERE WE GO, THEN...

KA BOOOM

WHAT THE—?!

BOMPH

YOU SAID THE MACHINES WERE ALL READY! YOU *LIED!*

BUT AT LEAST YOU'RE BACK TO NORMAL!

GET ME THE FIRE DEPARTMENT! QUICK!

WHOOOM

FIRE! FIRE! FIRE!

HERE'S THAT KID AGAIN!

THERE'S A FIRE! *REALLY!!*

ALL YOU EVER DO IS LIE!

YOU'RE NOT GONNA TRICK US AGAIN!

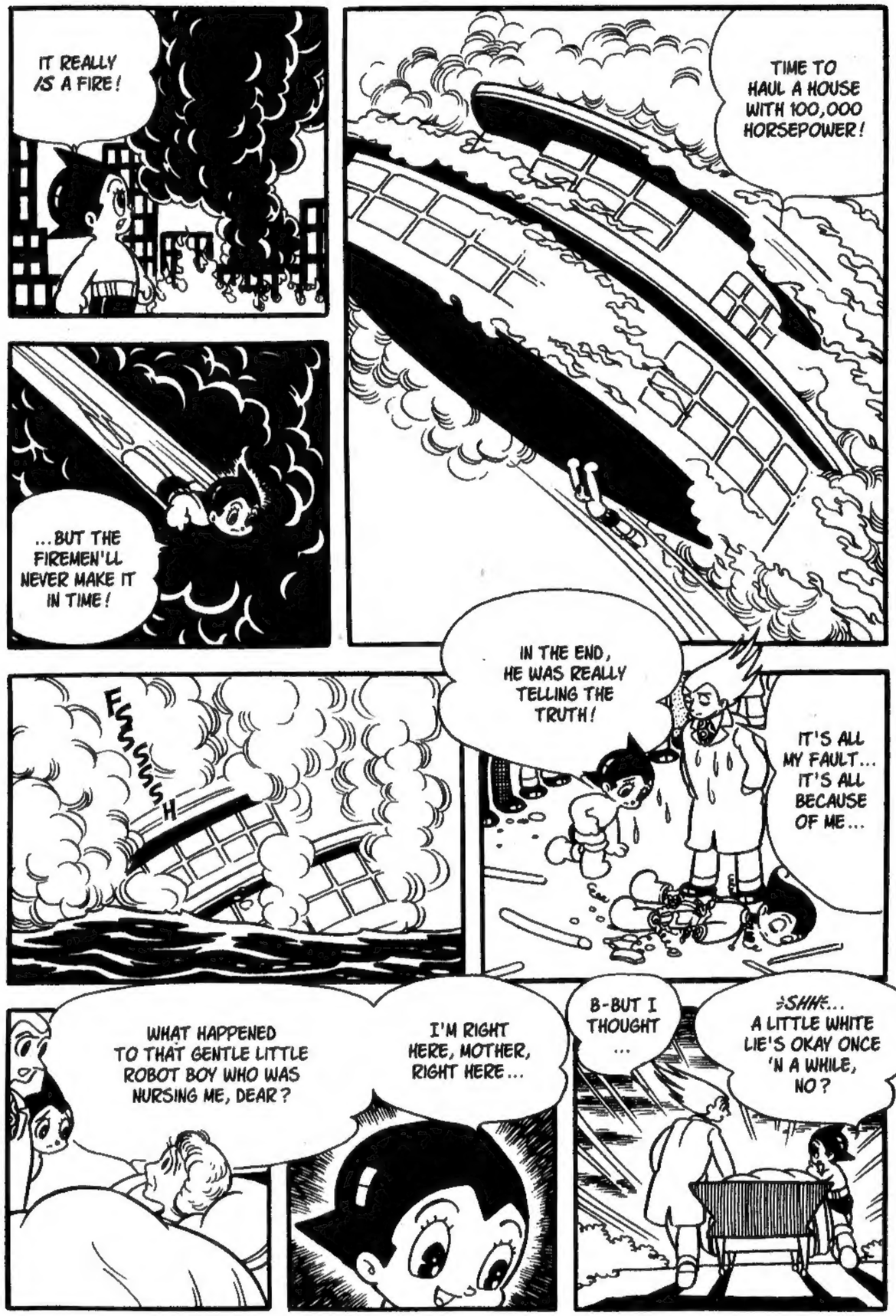
THIS'LL TEACH YOU NOT TO LIE!

GET HIM! WHUP HIM GOOD!

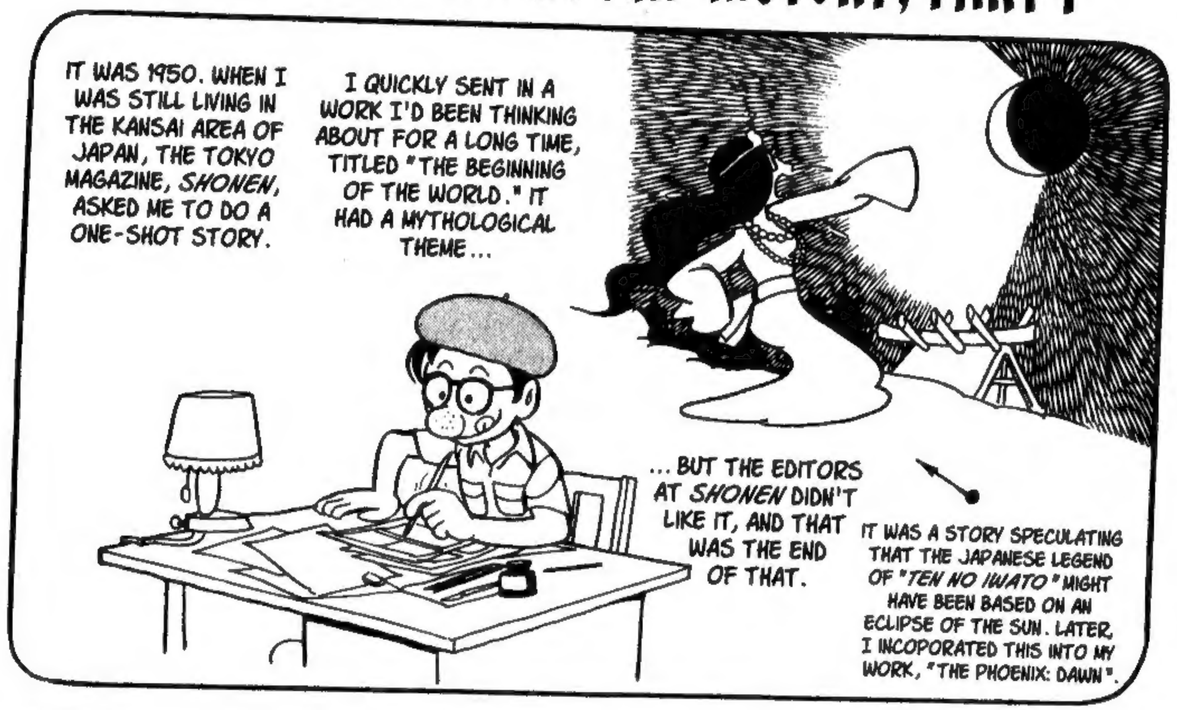
WAIT! STOP!

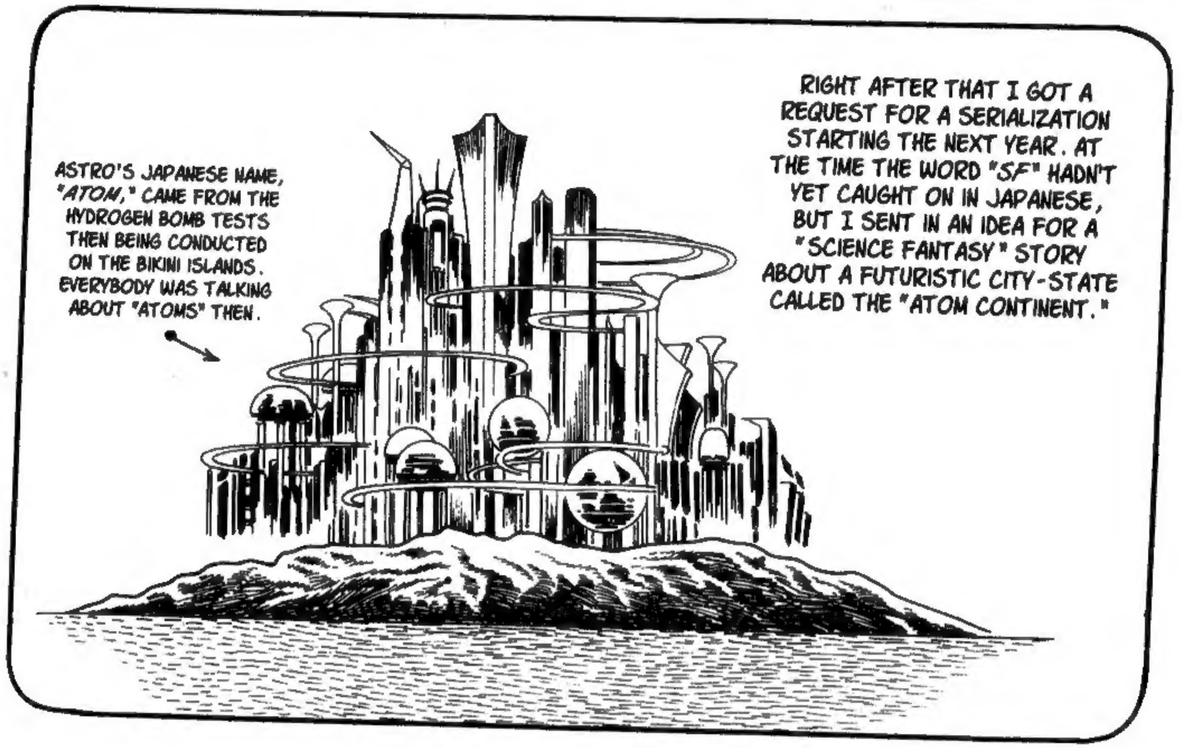
F... FIRE...

OH, MY GOSH...


IT REALLY IS A FIRE!
TIME TO HAUL A HOUSE WITH 100,000 HORSEPOWER!
...BUT THE FIREMEN'LL NEVER MAKE IT IN TIME!
IN THE END, HE WAS REALLY TELLING THE TRUTH!
IT'S ALL MY FAULT... IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF ME...
FSSSSSSH
WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT GENTLE LITTLE ROBOT BOY WHO WAS NURSING ME, DEAR?
I'M RIGHT HERE, MOTHER, RIGHT HERE...
B-BUT I THOUGHT ...
SHHH... A LITTLE WHITE LIE'S OKAY ONCE 'N A WHILE, NO?

ASTRO BOY'S ORIGINS AND HISTORY, PART 1


IT WAS 1950. WHEN I WAS STILL LIVING IN THE KANSAI AREA OF JAPAN, THE TOKYO MAGAZINE, SHONEN, ASKED ME TO DO A ONE-SHOT STORY.
I QUICKLY SENT IN A WORK I'D BEEN THINKING ABOUT FOR A LONG TIME, TITLED "THE BEGINNING OF THE WORLD." IT HAD A MYTHOLOGICAL THEME...
...BUT THE EDITORS AT SHONEN DIDN'T LIKE IT, AND THAT WAS THE END OF THAT.
IT WAS A STORY SPECULATING THAT THE JAPANESE LEGEND OF "TEN NO IWATO" MIGHT HAVE BEEN BASED ON AN ECLIPSE OF THE SUN. LATER, I INCOPORATED THIS INTO MY WORK, "THE PHOENIX: DAWN".


ASTRO'S JAPANESE NAME, "ATOM," CAME FROM THE HYDROGEN BOMB TESTS THEN BEING CONDUCTED ON THE BIKINI ISLANDS. EVERYBODY WAS TALKING ABOUT "ATOMS" THEN.
RIGHT AFTER THAT I GOT A REQUEST FOR A SERIALIZATION STARTING THE NEXT YEAR. AT THE TIME THE WORD "SF" HADN'T YET CAUGHT ON IN JAPANESE, BUT I SENT IN AN IDEA FOR A "SCIENCE FANTASY" STORY ABOUT A FUTURISTIC CITY-STATE CALLED THE "ATOM CONTINENT."

IN OCTOBER OF THAT YEAR, I RECEIVED A REPLY SAYING THEY WANTED ME TO USE THE NAME OF THE STORY'S MAIN CHARACTER FOR THE TITLE.

I HAD JUST STARTED SERIALIZING MY STORY, *JUNGLE EMPEROR* (LATER KNOWN AS *KIMBA, THE WHITE LION*, IN THE STATES), IN *MANGA SHONEN*.

USUALLY I DECIDE ON A WORK'S TITLE AFTER I'VE STARTED DRAWING IT.

...IT WAS HARD TO COME UP WITH ONE BEFORE DRAWING IT...

BLAST IT... I'LL JUST FIGURE OUT THE STORY LATER...

HMM... 'WONDER HOW "AMBASSADOR ATOM" WOULD WORK...?

IN FEBRUARY 1951, *SHONEN* RAN AN ADVERTISEMENT FOR THIS NEW SERIES. IT WASN'T SUPPOSED TO START UNTIL THE APRIL EDITION OF THAT YEAR, BUT THEY INCLUDED MY ADDRESS IN THE ADVERTISEMENT FOR IT.

MAYBE I MADE A MISTAKE?

ALMOST IMMEDIATELY, I RECEIVED A TON OF LETTERS, UP TO 150 IN ONE DAY!

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR NEW SERIES, YOU IDIOT!

HEY, TEZUKA! HOW COME YOU'RE SERIALIZING IN MANGA MAGAZINES! WHY DON'T YOU KEEP CREATING INTERESTING ONE-SHOT GRAPHIC NOVELS?!

HEY, TEZUKA! HOW COME YOU DON'T DRAW INTERESTING STORIES LIKE *LOST WORLD* AND *METROPOLIS*?!

I FEEL LIKE NEVER READING TEZUKA'S STUFF AGAIN!

THE FIRST EPISODE HAD FOUR PAGES... THE SECOND ALSO HAD FOUR PAGES, AND THE THIRD HAD TEN...

IN MARCH 1951, *AMBASSADOR ATOM* FINALLY BEGAN SERIALIZATION.

I HAD PUT TOGETHER A ROBOT CHARACTER NAMED "ATOM" BY THEN.

AT FIRST HE WAS COMPLETELY DOLL-LIKE. HE HAD NO PERSONALITY, NO FEELINGS, AND HE ACTED AS A SILLY ROBOT FOIL FOR THE OTHER CHARACTERS IN THE STORY.

NO ONE COULD HAVE GUESSED HE WOULD EVENTUALLY BECOME A *WARM, HUMAN-LIKE ROBOT*, WITH A *BURNING SENSE OF JUSTICE!*

THE END